Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. May 1877.

CONFIDENTIAL.

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424

FURTHER TELEGRAPHIC CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

April 1877.

52

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. May 1877.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Telegraphic Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

No. 1.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 1.)

Pera, March 31, 1877, 11·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Ambassador at Vienna reports General Ignatiew to have told him that the Prince of Montenegro would be found ready to desist from his demands for Nichsich, and be satisfied with the district of Kuci.

Montenegrin Delegates do not appear to be aware of this.

No. 2.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 1.)

Pera, March 31, 1877, 11·50 P.M.

(Telegraphic)

PORTE having learnt from Rome conditions proposed by Russia that an Envoy should be sent to St. Petersburgh, I sounded the Grand Vizier to-day as to his intentions.

His Highness did not appear averse to the step provided it were not considered humiliating by the country, and the Protocol contained nothing derogatory to the dignity of Turkey.

He felt, however, very anxious as to the possible return of General Ignatiew, as he considered it would be no easy matter for the Sultan to receive him as Ambassador after the unfriendly line of policy which he had never ceased to pursue towards this Empire.

No. 3.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 1.)

Vienna, April 1, 1877, 9·25 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Monson dated yesterday:—

"(For the Foreign Office.)

"(Confidential.)

"With reference to my telegram of yesterday I find that General Ignatiew holds that the Kutchi should be retained by Montenegro, and Nichsich and the Douga Pass by Turkey.

"My Austrian colleague this morning advised Prince Nicholas to question Russia directly as to her views. He told His Highness that if Russia would not support the claim for Nichsich the Austrian Government could not do so further. He suggested that His Highness might content himself with portions of the south-eastern and south-western corners of the plain of Nichsich, bounded respectively by the Mostanica and the Fracanica Rivers, and relinquish his claim to the rest of the Nichsich district and to the Douga Pass,

but that he should maintain his claim to the Kutchi and refuse to cede the Vassoievitchi. Finally, he reminded His Highness that the condition of the refugees rendered a speedy decision imperative.

"It seems that Prince Nicholas gave no clue to his intentions, reserving for the moment any expression of opinion.

"I believe with my Austrian colleague that His Highness' indecision is caused by the idea that hostilities between Russia and Turkey are still not impossible, and that he will not yield, if he yields at all, about Nichsich until the same Power which has hitherto encouraged his territorial aspirations explicitely tells him that he must renounce them."

No. 4.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 1.)

Vienna, April 1, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Monson's telegram of yesterday, forwarded to-day, I have informed him of signature of Protocol, and of everything being arranged between England and Russia.

No. 5.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 1, 6 P.M.)

Vienna, April 1, 1877, 4 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I CALLED at Ministry for Foreign Affairs to-day, at Under-Secretary's request, to enable Count Andrassy to compare substance of your Lordship's telegrams of yesterday with Count Beust's reports; but as his Excellency had been sent for by the Emperor, I did not see him. I am told, however, by the Under-Secretary, that he has expressed much satisfaction at the signature of the Protocol, and considers that, though he has made no declaration on the subject, it will cease to be binding on Austria-Hungary on its becoming null and void between Great Britain and Russia.

His Excellency will leave on Tuesday for his estate in Hungary, and will be absent for a week.

No. 6.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 1, *at night.*)

Rome, April 1, 1877, 9 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TELEGRAMS of yesterday received and communicated.

The Italian Government will be prepared to send back their Minister to Constantinople as soon as an Ambassador from Her Majesty proceeds there.

No. 7.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 2, 9 A.M.)

Pera, April 2, 1877, 7 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

AM I to communicate Protocol to the Porte? Russian Chargé d'Affaires has orders to do so when all his colleagues have received it.

No. 8.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 2, 9 A.M.)

Pera, April 2, 1877, 8 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Russian Chargé d'Affaires informs me that General Ignatiew has formally denied having spoken to the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna with regard to cession of Nichsich in the sense repeated by your Lordship.

No. 9.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 2.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

Vienna, April 2, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

DEPARTURE of Minister for Foreign Affairs has been postponed for a few days.

He told me to-day that Count Beust is instructed to ask that Mr. Jocelyn should be authorized to give the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires a correct copy of the Protocol, in order that he may join him in communicating it to the Porte.

He expressed some anxiety at peace being allowed to depend so entirely on the issue of the negotiations between the Porte and Montenegro, as Prince Gortchakow says that Russia cannot well employ more pressure than she has already done to induce His Highness to be conciliatory, and General Ignatiew denies at St. Petersburgh what he said to the Turkish Ambassador here respecting Nichsich.

I told him that Monson was instructed to support any representations which may be made by Austria and Russia in favour of an arrangement.

No. 10.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 2.)

(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, April 2, 1877, 7 P.M.

FROM Mr. Monson:—

"I had an interview this morning with Prince Nicholas, in which I have employed the strongest possible language in support of the advice of my Austrian colleague (who saw His Highness half-an-hour before); appealing by every argument I could think of to induce His Highness to give way about Nichsich, and laying stress upon the fact that now that the Protocol is signed, His Highness could no longer count upon the event of war between Russia and Turkey.

"The Prince desires me to inform your Lordship that he will wait until Thursday in order to learn explicitly from Russia the truth about Nichsich, respecting which he feels that he has been tricked; but that on that day he will order his Delegates to reiterate the demands contained in his telegram of the 16th ultimo, and if the Porte continues to reject them the Delegates will leave Constantinople.

"In answer to all my representations the Prince said, very courteously, that nothing which I could allege would alter his determination."

No. 11.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 2.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.)

Vienna, April 2, 1877, 8 P.M.

ON our speaking of Montenegro to-day, I said to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that I could not believe the Prince of Montenegro would disregard an urgent representation from Russia in favour of peace, and his Excellency answered that was also his opnion. If the Prince will not give way it will probably, therefore, be because he has not been told to do so.

No. 12.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 3, 1 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, April 3, 1877, 12·10 P.M.

FOLLOWING telegram from Monson, dated yesterday:—

"To Her Majesty's Government.

"(Most Confidential.)

"Prince Nicholas has already telegraphed to his Delegates at Constantinople that, on Thursday 5th instant, they are to reiterate his demands of the 16th March; and, if the

Porte does not accept them before the end of the armistice, they are at once to leave Constantinople, when His Highness will telegraph direct to the Grand Vizier that he will take his stand upon the *uti possidetis*, leaving the Turks to commence hostilities.

"The Prince's Secretary has been charged to tell me in strict confidence that if the Porte holds to Nichsich as point of honour, an offer to cede Spuz and the territory on the right bank of the Moratcha, originally demanded instead of Nichsich, might solve the difficulty.

"I am requested to ask Her Majesty's Government to consent to sound the Porte confidentially on this point, without giving it to be understood that the idea emanates from Montenegro, and without communicating the proposition to Austria or Russia, as the Prince considers himself to have been badly treated by both these Powers.

"In the interests of peace, and wishing to leave no effort untried to secure it, I have thought it my duty not to refuse to submit this proposition to Her Majesty's Government, without expressing any opinion as to light in which they may regard it.

"Prince Nicholas is greatly excited, and I fear that all his advisers are very warlike. I have strongly impressed on his Secretary the absolute necessity of his urging moderation upon His Highness; and I, on my part, will do my utmost to prevent any rash step."

No. 13.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 3, 2 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 3, 1877, 1·10 P.M.

FOLLOWING from Monson dated to-day:—

"The Russian Acting Agent tells me that he has received three telegrams in all from Prince Gortchakow, instructing him to advocate moderation. These telegrams are in general terms, and contain no specific orders about details."

No. 14.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 3, 2·35 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 3, 1877, *noon.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me that Mr. Layard's appointment will be agreeable to the Sultan.

No. 15.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 3, 4·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 3, 1877, 12·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 24th ultimo, Governor-General of Trebizond reports that Mussulmans and Christians suffered equally from the excesses of the redifs who passed through the district of Gumushhane. A Mixed Commission is to be sent to make inquiries on the spot. Both the Delegate of the Metropolitan and the the Chief of the Erzeroum police are on this Commission.

No. 16.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 3, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 3, 1877, 3 P.M.

M. YONINE, the Russian Consul-General at Ragusa, has passed through Vienna on his way to Cettigné.

No. 16*.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 3.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.) *Constantinople, April* 3, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

AS I quite understood the alterations to be applied to Protocol No. 4, and, moreover, had seen the copies received by my Italian and Russian colleagues, which I find to be identic with my own, I communicated it, and the Declarations, to the Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning, adding the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram.

His Excellency said that he could give no opinion whatever with regard to it until it had been considered by the Council of Ministers.

He, however, in strict confidence, gave me his own views on the subject.

The Protocol virtually annuls the IXth Article of the Treaty of Paris, in formally recording the supervision of the reforms by foreign Agents.

It calls upon Turkey to disarm without mentioning a corresponding obligation on the part of Russia, and he did not conceal his astonishment at this point having received your Lordship's approval.

The Declaration was objectionable:—first, because of the conditions attached to Russian demobilization; and, secondly, on account of its last paragraph, as offering a premium to insurrection in Turkey.

It will encourage the endeavours of revolutionary agents if the repression of rebellion caused by their means is publicly known to be prohibited.

Peace with Montenegro upon the demands of Prince Nicholas, and in the present temper of the country, was, he said, impossible; and as the whole question appeared to hinge upon this condition, he did not see how it was to be avoided.

His Excellency was evidently much cast down and disappointed at what he considers an advantage obtained by Russia over Her Majesty's Government.

No. 17.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Ricketts.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 3, 1877.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 24 of February 12th, it will not be necessary to send interpreter to Alexandropol at present.

No. 18.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 4, 1877, 7 A.M.

I HAVE received the following telegram from Monson :—

"I had an interview this morning with Prince Nicholas, in which I have employed the strongest possible language in support of the advice of my Austrian colleague (who saw His Highness half-an-hour before), appealing by every argument I could think of to induce His Highness to give way about Nichsich, and laying stress upon the fact that now that the Protocol is signed, His Highness could no longer count upon the events of war between Russia and Turkey.

"The Prince desires me to inform your Lordship that he will wait until Thursday in order to learn explicitly from Russia the truth about Nichsich, respecting which he feels that he has been tricked; but that on that day he will order his Delegates to reiterate the demands contained in his telegram of the 16th ultimo, and if the Porte continues to reject them the Delegates will leave Constantinople.

"In answer to all my representations the Prince said, very courteously, that nothing which I could allege would alter his determination."

I have repeated the above telegram to Lord A. Loftus, with the following instructions :—

"Tell Prince Gortchakow that as it appears from the reports received from Montenegro that the Prince's decision now depends upon Russia, Her Majesty's Government trust that the Russian Government will not fail to use their influence with His Highness in favour of conciliation, and thus advance the policy of peace which has been the object of the recent negotiations for the Protocol."

No. 19.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 4, 1877, 8·30 A.M.

ON my informing Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Italian Minister will return to Constantinople, as reported by Sir A. Paget, he said that he had no objection to other Powers sending back their Representatives, and that he had never seen any reason for their leaving, but as they did so, he thinks he will act more logically in deferring the return of the Austrian Ambassador until the Protocol has been accepted by the Porte.

No. 20.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 4.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Berlin, April* 4, 1877, 11·44 A.M.

THE crisis continues; the Emperor will not accept Prince Bismarck's resignation, and Prince Bismarck has not yet withdrawn it.

As far as I can learn there is no intention of sending back the German Ambassador to Constantinople while the crisis lasts.

No. 21.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 4, 1877.*

FOLLOWING has been sent to Monson to-day :—

"Austrian Agent at Cettigné has proposed to Prince of Montenegro to abandon the demand for the fortress of Nichsich, and confine himself to that for the districts to south-east and south-west of the town.

"I am informed that the Prince is not indisposed to accede to this."

No. 22.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 4, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, April 4, 1877, 7·40 P.M.*

THE Porte has ordered immediate attack of the Mirdites.

My Italian colleague and I obtained from the authorities a delay of forty hours; granted unofficially.

It would be well if, during this delay, the Porte could be persuaded to put off its action, and if the French and Austrian Governments would order their Consuls to join us.

No. 23.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 5, 1877.*

COUNT BEUST informs me that Austrian Chargé d'Affaires is instructed to ask you for copy of Protocol, and of communication which you were instructed to make with it to the Porte, in order that he may make a similar one. You are, of course, authorized to give copy of the Protocol, and to inform him of the representations you have been instructed to make with regard to it.

No. 24.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.†

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 5, 1877, 7 A.M.*

THE Russian Government seem to be apprehensive that the Porte is about to protest against the Protocol. Such a proceeding would, in our opinion, be most unwise.

You should inform the Turkish Government that Her Majesty's Government obtained the omission or modification of those passages to which they thought the Porte could with any reason object. We consider that the Protocol, with the Russian Declaration which accompanied it, gives an opportunity for the arrangement of mutual disarmament, of which Turkey ought on every account to endeavour to avail herself. A contrary course will look like a reckless refusal of the overtures made by Russia, and will put the Porte in the wrong in the eyes of Europe.

No. 25.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5, 10 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 5, 1877, 8 A.M.*

FROM Mr. Monson :—

"For the Foreign Office :—

"I hear that Prince Nicholas told Austrian Agent to-day, confidentially, that he will recall his Delegates from Constantinople to-morrow.

* Repeated to Sir A. Buchanan.

† Repeated to Embassies.

"His Highness' irritation at the silence of Russia, and the denials by General Ignatiew of his reported language at Vienna, is excessive."

No. 26.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5, 11·30 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, April 5, 1877, 10·30 A.M.*

YAVOR, Zvornik, and Bouyouklitch were evacuated on the 30th ultimo. Difficulties have arisen respecting two adjoining islands on the Drina, which, before the war, belonged to Servia.

No. 27.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5, 3 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 5, 1877, 12·45 P.M.*

WHEN I had read to Foreign Minister on Tuesday the Protocol and declarations, his Excellency appeared so unwilling to receive them officially that I did not leave him copy, being without instructions to do so; but as my Russian colleague took that step yesterday, I venture to ask your Lordship whether I should follow his example.

No. 28.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April 5, 1877, 4·35 P.M.*

M. MELEGARI wishes to act with Her Majesty's Government in regard to sending back Minister to Constantinople, and has told Count Corti to be ready to start at any moment, but his Excellency thinks that Representatives should not return if Porte does not accept principles of the Protocol, as this would be a further rebuff to the Powers.

Would your Lordship inform me of the views of Her Majesty's Government on this point ?

Italian Chargé d'Affaires has recommended Porte to act in conformity with the Protocol, but did not communicate a copy of it.

No. 29.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 5, 1877, 7·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to the telegram from Mr. Monson of the 3rd instant, repeated to you to-day, you may mention to the Porte the plan of ceding Spuz and the territory on the right bank of the Moracha instead of Nichsich as one that has been mooted, but you should wait until you see what proposals are made by Austria and Russia, and how they are received by the Porte, before making any suggestions yourself.

No. 30.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April 5, 1877, 5·15 P.M.*

ITALIAN Consul at Scutari telegraphs at one o'clock last night that the Ottoman troops intended to attack the Mirdites immediately, that he, with his English colleague, obtained 40 hours suspension; but the other Consuls refused to join.

Italian Government telegraphed to Constantinople to endeavour to dissuade the Porte from attacking Mirdites, and hope Her Majesty's Government will do the same.

No. 31.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 5*, 1877, 5 P.M.
(Confidential.)

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs expressed much anxiety to me to-day at the reports received from Constantinople and Cettigné. He fears that unless Russia warns the Prince of Montenegro that he will get no support if he persists in his demands, His Highness will make no further concessions, and he thinks that energetic language will also be required at Constantinople to prevent war.

Since seeing him I have received your telegram to Mr. Jocelyn of to-day, and I shall acquaint his Excellency with its substance. Prince Nicholas is reported to be making arrangements with the Mirdites and a collision between them and Dervish Pasha has been, however, only prevented by the intervention of the Consuls, or rather delayed for forty-eight hours till instructions can be received from Constantinople. The newspapers report that the Commander-in-chief at Mostar is collecting forces to relieve Nicksich on the expiration of the armistice, and the various insurgent bands in Bosnia are said to amount together to 3,000 men. The Russian Embassy here profess to be ignorant of M. Jonine having passed through Vienna, but his having done so has been reported by the police.

No. 32.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 5*, 1877, 5·45 P.M.

WITH reference to Consul Green's telegram respecting the intended attack on the Mirdites, neither the Grand Vizier nor Minister for Foreign Affairs would give me any information to-day on the subject; Minister of the Interior, however, was less reticent. He looks upon the present movement as caused by the Jesuits, who wish to obtain a Catholic Governor and favour a combination against the Porte. Though unsuccessful their efforts have led to the disaffection of some of the clans, who have now laid siege to a stone building on the road to Scutari occupied by two Mirdite officers in the Turkish service, and it is to relieve these that the present expedition has been organized.

I have sent this to Scutari.

No. 33.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 5*, 1877, 8 P.M.

THE following is from Mr. Monson:—

"Prince Nicholas tells me that he does not intend his Delegates to leave Constantinople for the next few days, as he hopes that the Porte will yet come to accept terms.

"I continue to urge moderation, and His Highness promises me that he will do nothing precipitate."

No. 34.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 5*, 1877, 8 P.M.

I WROTE last evening to Prince Gortchakow to use influence with Prince of Montenegro in the sense of your Lordship's telegram.

Prince Gortchakow has urged conciliation generally, but avoids details. He has telegraphed to Prince of Montenegro to avoid rupture of negotiations, and not to recall Delegates before the expiration of the armistice.

General Ignatiew denies having counselled the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna against

No. 31*.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 5*, 1877, 5 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs stated to me this morning, in the presence of Grand Vizier, as the expression of his personal opinion, that should Russia consent to withdraw the Declaration, and to leave the question of territorial cession to Montenegro open till later, when he hoped for an amicable arrangement, he would undertake, not only that the required reforms should be seriously carried out, but that the refugees should be re-established to the satisfaction of Prince Nicholas, and that an Envoy should be sent to St. Petersburgh to treat of reciprocal disarmament.

the cession of Nichsich ; this was probably the trickery alluded to in Monson's conversation with Prince of Montenegro.

Intelligence yesterday and to-day from Constantinople unsatisfactory. Symptoms of intention to evade acceptance of the Protocol. If rejected, war inevitable.

No. 35.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 5*, 1877.

VICE-CONSUL at Adrianople reports that he has personally visited Obroukli and all the villages mentioned in the "Times'" letter of March 16 ; that the outrages reported to have occurred in those places have been monstrously exaggerated, and some cases are quite false ; that no women have been outraged or insulted, nor have people been stripped to their shirts, but that petty oppressions have happened, and the authorities should be more vigilant.

No. 36.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 5*, 1877, 10·30 P.M.

I HAVE no reason to believe that there is any intention of protesting against the Protocol.

Ministerial Councils are held daily on the subject, and I understand that we are to receive an identic reply, but not in writing. The disposition of the Sultan is in favour of peace, but the influence of Mahmoud and Redif Pashas upon His Majesty is most baneful. The idea of submitting the question of Montenegro to the judgment of the Chamber was, I believe, inserted in the Sultan's opening speech at the advice of Minister of War, who is working in favour of his own interests to hinder a peaceable solution.

I shall communicate the substance of your Lordship's telegram to Minister for Foreign Affairs to-night, and I shall also make it known to the Sultan to-morrow morning.

No. 37.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 6, 1877, 2·15 P.M.

WITH reference to Mr. Green's telegram of 4th instant, which was sent direct to you, advise Porte to refrain from attack on Mirdites at all events for the present.

No. 38.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 6, 1877, 2·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, you should carry out the instruction in my telegram of the 2nd to communicate the Protocol to the Porte.

The despatch recording that instruction was presented to Parliament yesterday.

No. 39.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 6, 1877, 4 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, you may tell Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs that the decision to send an Acting Ambassador has been arrived at,

irrespective of the attitude of the Porte, and that it would appear all the more necessary to have a Special Representative if the state of affairs is critical.

No. 40.

Mr Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 6, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 6, 1877, 3·30 P.M.

REPETITION of my telegram of yesterday, 5 P.M.:—

"Should Russia consent to withdraw (from) declaration, and to leave question of territorial cession to Montenegro open till later, when he hoped for an amicable arrangement, he would undertake not only that the required reforms should be seriously carried out, but that the refugees should be re-established to satisfaction of Prince Nicholas, and that an Envoy should be sent to St. Petersburgh to treat of reciprocal disarmament."

No. 41.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 6, 1877.

I HAVE just seen Prince Gortchakow. In regard to Montenegro he says that Nichsich is not the only or real difficulty; there is, besides, a question of vassalage and of the territorial claims urged by the Porte.

He considers last proposals of Prince of Montenegro very moderate, and is informed that if rejected by the Porte negotiations will be broken off, the Prince remaining on the defensive and on basis of *uti possidetis*.

In regard to the Protocol Prince Gortchakow said that Russia requires not the acceptance of the Protocol, but of the conditions contained in the declaration by Count Schouvaloff, and, as proof, the sending of a Special Envoy to St. Petersburgh to arrange question of disarmament.

Should the Porte reply verbally, or in unsatisfactory and evasive language, war will result, as Russia cannot longer bear the heavy pecuniary sacrifices of prolonged profitless negotiation.

I told his Highness of the urgent advice sent in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday to Mr. Jocelyn, and I drew his attention to the engagement in the last paragraph of the Protocol.

Prince Gortchakow replied that your Lordship's declaration rendered the Protocol null and void in event of non-fulfilment of reciprocal disarmament and peace. His Highness said that it was a question of days, and that a decision must be taken by the 13th of April. The Emperor would not withdraw; a manifesto was prepared; answer of the Porte would decide for peace or war.

It is important, I think, that the Porte should announce readiness to send a Special Envoy to St. Petersburgh. A Mussulman would be preferred here to a Christian.

Prince Gortchakow spoke with calmness, but with great decision.

No. 42.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 7, 12 *noon.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, April* 6, 1877, 6·30 P.M.

RECEIVED Chargé d'Affaires' telegram of yesterday. Commander-in-chief states that last night troops at Alhamiexter were attacked by Mirdites, and that the former returned their fire.

Italian Consul and I offered our good offices, on condition of a suspension of military operations for restoring order among the Mirdites.

We also stated that our colleagues of Austria and France were prepared to join us in securing tranquillity based on the *status quo ante*.

Authorities declined, on pretence of absence of instructions, and are evidently bent on attempting destruction of existing self-government of mountain tribes.

Account given by Minister of Interior shows his Excellency entirely ignorant of the real state of affairs here. Catholic clergy is, if anything, opposed to the movement; Commander-in-chief asserts it has promised him its co-operation.

No. 43.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April* 6, 1877, 11·45 P.M.

PROPOSITION mentioned in Mr. Monson's telegram of Monday as to Prince of Montenegro abandoning Nichsich for the right bank of the Moratcha was made to the Minister for Foreign Affairs two days ago by the Delegates, and his Excellency took note of it without expressing any opinion.

The Delegates have gathered from independent sources that, in case of hostilities breaking out, the Principality will be placed in great peril on account of vast numerical superiority of Turkish army to that of the Prince of Montenegro.

They have communicated this to His Highness, and more moderate instructions may possibly be the result.

No. 44.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 7, 1877.

FROM Mr. Monson:—

"I learn from my Austrian colleague that, in course of conversation this afternoon, Prince Nicholas said that he might give up his claim to Nichsich if the Porte offered him Spuz and the right bank of the Moratch.

"I do not think His Highness added that any steps had been taken in this sense.

"I now know, however, from the Prince, confidentially, that the plan was originally suggested to the Delegates at Constantinople, and probably by Réouf Pasha."

No. 45.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 7, 1 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, April* 7, 1877, 8·40 A.M.

ITALIAN Consul and I, having strengthened by more complete support our colleagues of Austria and France, wished to make a further communication to authorities on the subject of our proposed good offices.

Authorities declined to receive any communication whatsoever from Consuls, individual or collective, in connection with Mirdite affairs, and refused peremptorily our visit.

Under these circumstances we are powerless to influence them for good.

I believe Turks are acting in this matter under the wrong impression that they will be able to punish Mirdites before further interference is possible.

No. 46.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 7, 2 P.M.)

(Telegraphic)
(Secret and Confidential.) *Constantinople, April* 7, 1877, 10·30 A.M.

I HAVE received a very confidential communication from the Grand Vizier, in which his Highness says that he cannot understand the reason for Russia insisting so positively upon Delegate being sent to Petersburgh to treat on a subject which in his opinion in no way calls for such a step.

His Highness entertains the gravest suspicions that real object of the mission is to endeavour to bring about an alliance with Turkey, and to conclude another Treaty of Unkiar Skelessi.

The action of Persian Minister at the Palace, where he is now a frequent visitor, may be considered as bearing upon this idea, and his Highness asked me quite lately whether Her Majesty's Government knew of an offensive and defensive alliance having been concluded between Russia and Persia?

I replied that I was without information on the subject.

No. 47.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7, 5 P.M.)

Vienna, April 7, 1877, 2·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IN consequence of an urgent telegram received last night from the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Prince Nicholas has telegraphed to the Delegates not to leave Constantinople until further orders, and His Highness will, after the expiration of the armistice, remain on the defensive.

No. 48.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received Received April 7, 5 P.M.)

Vienna, April 7, 1877, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I UNDERSTAND that the German Embassy continue to consider the maintenance of peace as extremely improbable.

Count Andrassy will leave this evening for Hungary with the intention of being absent ten or twelve days.

No. 49.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

Foreign Office, April 7, 1877, 5 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 5th instant respecting Mirdites, Her Majesty's Government have already instructed Mr. Jocelyn to advise Porte in the same sense as Italian Government have instructed their Chargé d'Affaires to do.

No. 50.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 7.)

Paris, April 7, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

THE French Government has sent orders by telegraph to its Consul at Scutari to join the British and Italian Consuls in endeavouring to prevent an attack upon the Mirdites, but is informed that Turkish Commander-in-chief has already declined to accept communication tendered him by all the Consuls.

French Government has also instructed by telegragh its Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to advise Porte to stop intended attack.

No. 51.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 8.)

Constantinople, April 8, 1877, 10 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I COMMUNICATED to Grand Vizier, confidentially, this morning substance of Lord A. Loftus' telegram of 6th instant, urging upon him absolute necessity of declaring his readiness to send Special Envoy to Russia in order to avoid war. His Highness stated that Russian Chargé d'Affaires had spoken to him yesterday much in the same sense, but he could see in the pacific solution, which might now be arrived at, nothing more than

a truce, which might be broken at any moment by Russia, when Turkey would be at her mercy. A Cabinet Council was to meet at the Palace to-day, when he thought some decision might be arrived at. The Sultan, he said, was peaceably inclined, but would never be willing to compromise the honour of his country.

No. 52.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 8.)

Scutari, April 8, 1877, 12·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING telegram sent to Mr. Jocelyn:—

"Military movement against Mirdicia has been resumed since Friday. (Reports of Dervish Pasha?) I fear are misleading Porte. Reported attack on Alepikas appears to have been false alarm of outpost purposely adopted by the authorities. Their assertions that at least ten soldiers have been killed also appear unfounded. Villages on the spurs of the mountains will necessarily fall into the hands of the troops, and we must be prepared to hear of atrocities, whether they are committed or not."

No. 53.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 8.)

St. Petersburgh, April 8, 1877, 2 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I AM confident that if proposals of the nature reported in telegram from Constantinople of 5th instant, as the personal opinion of Minister for Foreign Affairs, were submitted to Russian Government, they would be considered as a direct refusal by the Porte of the Protocol and Declaration, and would lead to immediate war.

Porte must abandon all illusion as to any further concessions from Russia.

No. 54.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 8.)

Vienna, April 8, 1877, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

NO information has been received here in confirmation of Safvet Pasha's opinion expressed to Mr. Jocelyn on the 5th instant. Count Andrassy telegraphed on 6th to Constantinople, representing peace or war to be now in the hands of the Porte, and recommending urgently, as the Porte will be responsible to Europe, the acceptance (at least in principle) of the Protocol. He also recommended the cession of the right bank of the Moratcha as a means of getting over Nichsich difficulty. The Turkish Ambassador having spoken to me yesterday of the Russian declaration as an insult to Turkey, I said I could not agree with him, as it was, in my opinion, merely an assurance required by your Lordship respecting demobilization, accompanied by a reservation to satisfy public opinion in Russia.

No. 55.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 9, 2·15 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 9, 1877, 10·35 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)
(Very Confidential.)

THE policy of the German Government at present crisis appears to be one of total abstention from action.

During the last few days my colleagues and I have been making every effort to induce Porte to take measures to insure peace, whilst German Chargé d'Affaires appears to have no orders on the subject, and there are not wanting signs that his Government is rather inclined to encourage it in this resistance.

No. 56.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 9, 1877, 4 P.M.

INFORMATION having been received here yesterday respecting modified manner in which Porte thinks of accepting the Protocol, instructions were again sent to Austrian Chargé d'Affaires to urge impolicy of Porte incurring the responsibility of making objections to its provisions.

Count Andrassy has not yet left, but will probably do so to-morrow.

No. 57.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 9, 1877, 4·45 P.M.

RUSSIAN Ambassador in conversation to-day expressed conviction of absolute necessity if war was to be averted of an Ambassador being sent from Constantinople to treat directly at St. Petersburgh. With regard to the other question now under consideration, namely, the terms of peace between Turkey and Montenegro, he thought that delay, however injurious, would not be fatal; but he expressed most serious apprehension of consequences that might follow if the Porte showed itself unwilling to enter at once on a negotiation with his Government having mutual disarmament for its object.

I promised to make known to you the substance of his communication without delay.

Inform Porte accordingly.

No. 58.

*Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.**—(*Received April* 9, 5·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 9, 1877, 3 P.M.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW has received this morning very unsatisfactory intelligence from Constantinople.

Porte apparently refuses the Protocol, and whilst accepting the Declaration with reserves will only send Envoy to St. Petersburgh provided that Russian Envoy be also sent to Constantinople.

Porte has decided to attack Mirdites and to blockade Montenegro. Under present circumstances it is, I believe, decided to publish Imperial manifesto on the 13th instant. Notwithstanding the critical state of affairs, Prince Gortchakow told French Ambassador this morning that a Turkish Special Envoy would still be received if instructed to treat seriously.

No. 59.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 9, 1877.

THE "Antelope" has been ordered to meet Mr. Layard at Marseilles, and he expects to embark there with Mrs. Layard on Monday the 16th. Make arrangements for his reception.

No. 60.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 9, 1877, 8 P.M.

I HAVE seen the Foreign Minister since dispatching my previous telegram of to-day, and I doubt his leaving Vienna before the crisis is over. He still hopes for peace,

* Repeated to Embassies.

but reports from Petersburgh are warlike and represent Emperor's sentiments to have become less pacific, whilst there is reason to fear that the Porte will not act in conformity with the exigencies of its position.

No. 61.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, April* 9, 1877, 9 P.M.

I HAVE received letter from Bib Doda, dated Thursday, stating that the people in the besieged house, (who) had been allowed to withdraw in safety to the Ghega, will be respected.

Doda hopes Consuls will continue to endeavour to prevent a conflict. He was not yet aware of the refusal of the authorities to permit action of Consuls.

Four battalions attacked Mirdites yesterday morning at a place half-an-hour from Narach; five Mirdites wounded.

Troops and Christians have remained to-day facing each other, but without fighting.

No. 62.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April* 10, 1877, 1·15 P.M.

ITALIAN Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople telegraphs under date of yesterday, that he has done all he can to induce the Porte to send an Envoy to St. Petersburgh, and that this question is still under consideration, but he was told by the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs that a resolution not to accept the Protocol or terms proposed by Montenegro was irrevocable.

M. de Gavagra calls attention to the attitude of reserve of German Chargé d'Affaires in recent negotiations.

No. 63.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 10, 5·7 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 10, 1877, 10·40 A.M.

GRAND VIZIER sent for me early this morning and communicated the decision of last evening's Council.

The points of the Protocol considered derogatory to Turkey are rejected.

Russian declaration is altogether refused.

Mutual disarmament will be proposed.

This decision has been communicated by a circular telegram to their Representatives abroad.

No. 64.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 10, 5·19 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 10, 1877, 12·20 P.M.

FOLLOWING sent to Athens:—

"I hear on good authority that a rising in Crete is being prepared by a Committee at Athens, and that it is to break out in the event of a reverse occurring to the Ottoman troops.

"Grivas is, I understand, the principal organizer."

No. 65.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 10, 1877.*

THE adjourned debate on the question of Montenegro was resumed to-day, and although Ministers hoped for vote of confidence, leaving them free to treat with the Principality as they thought best, the motion was rejected by 65 against 18 voices, thus protesting against any territorial cession whatever.

No. 66.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 10, 1877.*

FOLLOWING is from Monson, dated yesterday, 10 P.M. :—

"From the Prince's language to-day I fear that the late Austrian telegrams urging him to relinquish Niehsich have only served to irritate him. He assures me that his determination to insist on this is in no way caused by any instigation from Russia, from whom he has received no prompting of any kind. He states that the Delegates will at once leave Constantinople on the receipt of a refusal of their demands."

No. 67.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 11, 5 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 11, 1877, 2·30 P.M.*

FOLLOWING is from Monson, dated to-day :—

'Montenegrin Delegates telegraph that the Turkish Parliament yesterday unanimously refused all cession of territory; and that the Porte's answer to the Protocol is tantamount to its rejection. They are to have an interview with Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day.

"Prince Nicholas is taking precautionary measures against a sudden attack of the (? Turkish Government) on the Herzegovina."

No. 68.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 11, 6 P.M.)

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 11, 1877, 2·30 P.M.*

FOLLOWING is from Monson, dated to-day :—

"Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs seems to think that the question of the independence of Montenegro may be raised in reference to territorial cessions. I feel convinced that the Prince will never consent to any arrangement implying the suzerainty of Turkey over the Principality."

No. 69.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, April 11, 1877.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs assures me that instructions were sent to the German Chargé d'Affaires to associate himself with and support the friendly advice of his colleagues at Constantinople. At the present juncture those instructions have again been repeated by telegraph.

No. 70.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, April 11, 1877.*

I AM told that telegram has been received by Grand Duke from St. Petersburgh ordering army to be in readiness to march by the 13th instant. Officers on leave ordered to their posts, 38th and 20th divisions not yet arrived. Effective operations difficult during their absence. Two other divisions are, it is said, ordered from Russia to form reserve. Three battalions leave for frontier.

No. 71.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 11, 1877.*

I LEARNED from Prince Gortchakow this morning that the Porte has rejected the Protocol, declaration, and terms of peace with Montenegro, consequently there was no further motive for the presence of a Turkish Envoy at St. Petersburgh.

My impression is that Russia, before taking any isolated action, will make a further appeal to Europe, although I am not officially told so.

No. 72.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, April 11, 1877, 11·45 P.M.*

DELEGATES telegraph that their demands are to be submitted to the Senate, but that Safvet Pasha states that he regards war with Russia as inevitable. They propose to ask for a definite answer on Friday the 13th, as the Porte seems inclined to protract the negotiation.

Prince Nicholas telegraphs to-night approving this intention, and bids them, in case of a rejection of their demands or of delay in answering, to leave Constantinople by the first steamer for Odessa and Vienna.

It seems that Count Andrassy intends to make effort to bring about an arrangement at Vienna.

His Excellency promises to instruct my Austrian colleague immediately.

No. 73.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, April 11, 1877.*

EXPEDITION from Miet made a further advance yesterday, and after a short engagement took some more of the Mirdite positions. Troops only one; Christians several killed and wounded.

Native reports, not yet confirmed, state that Turkish force from Plana near Alessio has met with serious reverse.

No. 74.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, April 11, 1877.*

MY clerk, returned from Ipek to-day, reports that story of massacre there, as described in "Daily News" of 2nd ultimo, is a pure fabrication. Acting Consul Barker will forward his report.

No. 75.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 12, 1877, 6·45 P.M.

IS it true, as reported in a letter from Pera in the "Times" of Tuesday, that a student of the military school at Constantinople was bastinadoed for having drawn up a petition about Midhat Pasha's banishment, and died under the infliction.

Answer by telegraph, as a question will be asked in the House to-morrow.

No. 76.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 12, 1877, 9 P.M.

PERSIAN Minister informs me that on 6th February a fanatical outbreak took place at Medina in which nine Persian pilgrims were killed and 300 wounded. He has represented the outrage to the Porte, which proposes a Mixed Commission to investigate it. He is anxious to [get] Mediating Powers to send delegates, and has asked me to refer the matter to your Lordship.

I think it extremely doubtful that the Porte would approve of our interfering in a purely religious question in the Hedjaz.

He says if ample satisfaction is not given, he is instructed to refer to Tehran, and that a rupture of relations will probably follow.

No. 77.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 13, 1877, 2 A.M.

TURKISH Ambassador has communicated Circular respecting the Protocol.

I expressed deep regret of Her Majesty's Government at view taken by the Porte, but thought it unnecessary to enter on further discussion of a step which had been adopted by the Porte after full consideration, and which could not now be retraced.

In answer to a question from me, Musurus Pasha said that his Government were not prepared to send an Ambassador to St. Petersburgh to treat on the question of mutual disarmament, and he expressed an opinion that matters could not be settled in a satisfactory manner unless the Powers consented to annul the Protocol.

I pointed out in reply that the divirgence between the views of our two Governments appeared so wide as to render discussion useless, and I said I did not see what further steps Her Majesty's Government could take to avert a war which appeared to have become inevitable.

Musurus Pasha answered that the attitude of his Government was simply defensive, that they did not desire war, but that they would prefer it to the sacrifice of national independence, which appeared to them to be involved in the acceptance of the Protocol.

No. 78.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.[*]

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 13, 1877, 6 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, I shall be happy to use my good offices in regard to the outbreak at Medina if acceptable to both the Governments of Turkey and Persia; but so far as your report would show it does not appear to be a matter for reference to the Powers, and might well be settled between Persia and Turkey alone.

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[*] Repeated to Mr. Taylour Thompson, with telegram from Mr. Jocelyn.

No. 79.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, April* 13, 1877, 5 P.M.

MONTENEGRIN Delegates telegraph that the Porte categorically refuses all their demands and that they will take formal leave to-morrow, and that for Odessa and Vienna on Monday the 16th.

They add that Prince Nicholas may expect to be attacked immediately on the side of Nichsich. Grand Vizier telegraphs to Prince that the negotiations are broken off, and that there is to be no more prolongation of armistice nor suspension of hostilities.

I do not think the Turks are in a position to attack with advantage, and I believe that all the necessary precautions have been taken by the Montenegrins.

No. 80.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 13, 1877, 7·47 P.M.

TURKISH Circular answer to Protocol was communicated here yesterday. It is regarded as a rejection of all the proposals and closing the door to any further negotiations. I believe that Imperial decision is taken, but will not be published until previous reference to European Powers. War is thought to be inevitable, but it is generally deplored.

No. 81.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, April* 13, 1877.

TWO batteries and 1 battalion gone to Ozozurt; 2 batteries gone to frontier from Suram; 1,000 Tartar militia gone to Alexandropol; 38th and 20th divisions not arrived; I do not think they can reach frontier before 25th. Daghistan reported in revolt. Reported Russians are drawing troops from Kischeneff to make main attack from Caucasus. I cannot answer for truth of this report, but inquiry might be made from Odessa.

No. 82.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *April* 13, 1877, 7 P.M.

SON ALTESSE a adressé au Grand Vézir le télégramme suivant:—

"J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception de la dépêche de votre Altesse de ce jour, et tout en regrettant comme elle que nos négociations n'aient pas abouti, je prends note que la Sublime Porte n'a pas le projet de me proposer un nouveau prolongement d'armistice."

No. 83.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 14, 1877, 7 A.M.

WITH reference to Monson's telegram of yesterday, what is he to do in the event of the resumption of hostilities between Porte and Montenegro? The Prince, I understand, wishes the foreign Agents to accompany him during military operations in which he may be engaged, but Monson is anxious to leave on account of his health. It is believed here that if the Turks are not strong enough to force Douga Pass, Nichsich must surrender in less than a month.

No. 84.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 14.)

Pera, April 14, 1877, 8 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

ALL has been arranged for Mr. Layard's reception. "Antelope" will have to stop at Dardanelles, where the first Dragoman of the Embassy and the Dragoman of the Divan will join her.

No. 85.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 14, 1 P.M.)

Pera, April 14, 1877, 10 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

LAST proposals made by the Montenegrin Delegates were finally rejected by the Foreign Minister yesterday, and they consequently informed His Excellency that they had received orders to break off negotiations and to quit Constantinople.

They are much disappointed, and especially nettled at the claim of vassalage put forward by the Porte.

I am informed that they are to leave on Tuesday by the Danube and Trieste.

No. 86.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 14, 4·10 P.M.)

St. Petersburgh, April 14, 1877, 1·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IT is reported that the Emperor, accompanied by the Czarewitch, will leave on Thursday for Kischeneff.

In the event of war, will Her Majesty's Government permit Colonel Wellesley to accompany the Russian army?

No. 87.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 14, 5 P.M.)

Paris, April 14, 1877, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MR. LAYARD sends you the following:—

"I have just seen the Duc Decazes. He tells me that he has sent M. d'Harcourt to England on purpose to see your Lordship, and to suggest that the Powers should fall back upon the last Article of the Protocol, and endeavour to frame some proposal or arrangement which might be acceptable to the Porte in the interests of peace. He does not suggest a Conference but a 'causerie' in London or elsewhere, at which the Powers, through the Representatives, might come to some understanding. If this were found impossible, he thinks that I might suggest to the Sultan to act upon the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris and to ask for mediation—as the present case is one especially within the object of the Article—as after all only questions of dignity and 'susceptibilities' are really at the bottom of the difficulties. He thinks that I might suggest at the same time to the Sultan that he should issue a Firman announcing disarmament of his own spontaneous will. This disarmament would actually take a little time to effect, and would place Russia in such a position that she could scarcely precipitate war, and would give an opportunity for further endeavours on the part of the Powers in the interests of peace. He says that he has used all his influence with Prince Orloff to induce Russia not to go to war, and has pointed out all the dangers she would incur by doing so. He says he possesses complete evidence that Prince Bismarck is pushing the Turks, and Austrians too, on to war.

"Duc Decazes added that had not the Porte's answer to the Protocol been such as it is, he would have sent the French Ambassador to Constantinople, but that he could not do so at any rate for the present. He has consulted Berlin, Vienna, and Rome, and finds that I may be of great use at Constantinople alone, and assures me that he will give

instructions to French Representatives to act entirely with me. Although not sanguine about preventing war, he appears still to have hopes that peace may be preserved."

No. 88.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 13, 1·11 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 13, 1877, 12·35 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram of last night, I have ascertained that no student of the military school was bastinadoed, and that the letter in the "Times" on this subject is altogether an invention.

No. 89.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 14.)

Galatz, April 14, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

ORDERS are being given for the immediate concentration of the troops.

No. 90.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 14, *at night.*)

Serajevo, April 14, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Consul is ordered to quit Bosnia; he leaves to-day; his Secretary a day or two later.

Russian interests left in charge of German Consul.

No. 91.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 14.)

Tiflis, April 14, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

THERE was no revolt in Daghistan, but there was a revolt near Ozurget, where some villages have been burnt by the Abkhas.

No. 92.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 15.)

Rome, April 14, 1877, 9·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Circular communicated here day before yesterday. M. Melegari replied that he regretted the decision taken, and that the Porte had not better appreciated the efforts of the Powers to save Turkey from impending peril.

Italian Consul at Bucharest telegraphs that Turkish army appears to menace Kalafat.

No. 93.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 16.)

Tiflis, April 13, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

ONE battalion of the 38th division arrived yesterday. Another battalion gone to Ozurget. Russians will not, I think, besiege Kars, but will attempt a *coup de main*. Turks understanding that, watch. Defiles east of Batum from Akhalzik should be well fortified, as artillery can pass there.

No. 94.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 15, 1877, 9 P.M.*

OFFICIAL language here gives no hope of avoiding war. Manifesto imminent. Large amount going to be sent yesterday to army. General Ignatiew accompanies Emperor to Kischeneff. Emperor leaves on Thursday; will probably return by Moscow first week in May. Prince Gortchakow remains here.

No. 95.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 15, 1877, 11·20 P.M.*

HOBART PASHA, who is now virtually in command of the Ottoman navy, has dispatched two gun-boats, two monitors, and two ironclad corvettes to cruise off the Sulina mouth of the Danube, and proceeds by Sultan's orders on Tuesday next to inspect defences of that river. He will be subsequently sent with all dispatch to Crete to insure the necessary precautions being observed to prevent the importation of contraband of war from the Greek ports to that island, where there are apprehensions of a rising when war is declared.

No. 96.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 16, 1877.*

EMPEROR has invited Austrian and German military agents to accompany him to review the army at Kischeneff; French Military Attaché has been there for some months by invitation of Grand Duke Nicholas.

No invitation has been sent to Colonel Wellesley to accompany Emperor, consequently he is the only Military Attaché omitted.

If omission is accidental it might be rectified through Count Schouvaloff.

No. 97.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 16, 4·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, April 16, 1877, 1·14 P.M.*

ROUMANIAN troops to occupy in force Kalafat and a position to the north, covering Bucharest. Movement begins to-day. Proclamation to be issued immediately by Prince Charles defining his policy, and the attitude of Roumania as regards Russian troops.

No. 98.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 16, 4·2 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, April 11, 1877, 5·53 P.M.*

THE Russian Minister has communicated to the Persian Government a Proclamation, of which I forward a translation by post, issued by General Lomakin to the Zemoot Turcoman chiefs, making a requisition for transport camels and (?) notifying that he is proceeding to occupy Kizl Ervad, where he will construct a fort and place a permanent garrison.

Communicated to Viceroy.

No. 99.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 16, 1877, 11·30 P.M.*

THE Russian Imperial yacht has arrived here from Nicholaieff to be at the disposal of the Embassy when it is withdrawn.

The Russian Chargé d'Affaires informs me that he is still without instructions as to his departure, although he has been directed to warn the Consuls to be ready to leave at a short notice.

No. 100.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 16, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, April 16, 1877.*

AUSTRIAN and French Consuls have communicated to me letter of 14th received by them this morning from Bib Doda.

He states that the Mirdite resistance has collapsed, and that he and his family and his adherents place themselves under the protection of the Governments of Austria and France, and pray that their influence may be used to obtain cessation of hostilities.

My colleagues have conveyed this information in writing to authorities, and have applied to their Governments for instructions.

I believe Turks will insist on removal of Doda from Albania.

Above telegraphed to Chargé d'Affaires.

No. 101.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, April 16, 1877.*

RUSSIAN Consul has ordered 100 flat barges to be constructed and ready in ten days.

2,200 sacks of Russian grain delivered here last night from Odessa. Contractor will arrive to-night. A bridge is to be constructed over the Sereth near Sherbesti. 300 Servian volunteers are at Ismail.

No. 102.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, April 16, 1877.*

GRAND DUKE gone to Alexandropol. One battalion 660 strong, 19th division, left to-day for Ozurget, another battalion goes there to-morrow. I hear that Hassan Pasha at Batum is incapable. There ought to be a good General there.

A telegram has been sent by this Government to St. Petersburgh saying that this army will be ready by 27th ultimo.

No. 103.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17.)

Galatz, April 17, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

BARGES will not be ready under thirty days; 28,000 Russian troops on frontier near Bolgrad.

No. 104.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Holmes.

Foreign Office, April 17, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

HAVE you any knowledge, or can you ascertain truth of reports in "Manchester Guardian" of 26th of March, as to an attack by Bashi-Bazouks upon refugees returning to Otchievo, and the massacre of a Greek bridal procession at Glamosh.

Questions will be asked on Friday, and information is required by that day if possible.

No. 105.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17, 1 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 17, 1877, 11 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Grand Vizier is convinced that the Persian Government are seeking a pretext to break off relations with Turkey. Four principal causes of complaint are brought forward against the Porte:—

1st. Outrage at Medina.

2nd. The import duty levied upon tobacco from Persia.

3rd. The enrolment in the Ottoman army of children born of mixed Persian and Turkish marriages.

4th. The question of the residence of the brother of the Shah at Bagdad.

The Minister for Public Instruction, who has just returned from representing the Porte at Tehran, gives but a very indifferent account of the state of the Persian army; and his report has done much to calm the apprehension of the Government as to an impending attack from that quarter.

No. 106.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 17, 2 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 17, 1877, 11·30 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Galatz, dated yesterday:—

"Russian Consul has ordered 100 flat barges to be constructed and ready in ten days.

"Two thousand two hundred sacks of Russian grain delivered here last night from Odessa. Contractor will arrive to-night.

"A bridge is to be constructed over the Sereth, near Shebesti.

"Three hundred Servian volunteers are at Ismail."

No. 107.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Foreign Office, April 17, 1877, 6·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MR. MONSON need not accompany the Prince in warlike operations, but had better remain for the present until it is seen how the crisis between Russia and Turkey ends, when arrangements will be made for relieving him.

No. 108.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 18.)

Tiflis, April 17, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

STAFF left Tiflis. Troops apparently concentrating on Alexandropol and Ozurget. All artillery left Tiflis. Only troops here are local sappers and three battalions of 38th.

I can obtain no information as to whereabouts of remainder of that and 20th division.

A number of civilians sent to frontier to be employed in Turkish territory if conquered.

No. 109.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 18.)

St. Petersburgh, April 17, 1877, 11·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I LEARN indirectly that the Russian Government will not grant permission to the Military Attachés to the Embassies here to accompany active army.

Application for the German Military Attaché has been refused. French Military Attaché being already for some months at head-quarters of Grand Duke Nicholas, will not, however, be recalled.

No. 110.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 18, 12·30 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 18, 1877, 11·30 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH "Official Gazette" has published despatch from the Governor-General of Bosnia accusing the Austrian authorities of contributing to present state of disturbance in that province, and contradicting flatly the assertion made by Count Andrassy to the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna in reply to his remonstrances.

The publication of this despatch has, I am told, given great offence at Vienna.

No. 111.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 19, 12·30 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 18, 1877, 11·30 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I RECEIVED yesterday evening a message from the Sultan's Chamberlain confirming the denial of any corporal punishment having been inflicted upon a student of the Military School, as was stated in the "Times'" telegram.

My informant had seen four of the culprits in question, who were well.

Minister of War wishes to take proceedings against the "Times" for the libel.

No. 112.

Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 18, 4 P.M.)

Bucharest, April 18, 1877, 12·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN General of Engineers with staff has proceeded to Kalafat to inspect and take charge of works.

No. 113.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 18, 5·20 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 18, 1877, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
SULTAN has appointed Hobart Pasha Commander-in-chief of Turkish fleet. He left for the Danube this morning, and intends placing some of his vessels at juncture of the three branches of the river so as to hinder ascent of a hostile squadron.

No. 114.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 19.)

Scutari, April 18, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
NOTWITHSTANDING information in my telegram of the 16th, it appears from present reports that the Mirdites have not entirely ceased their resistance.

Two battalions coming from Prisrend were attacked on Mirdite ground, and had three killed, and about ten wounded. Already these battalions are accused of having killed some women and children, and pillaged all the houses on the sides of the high road.

No 115.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 19.)

Galatz, April 18, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
SEVERAL Russian officers and four army contractors here—among other things 300 transport cattle wanted—a small number said to be an experiment. Conditions of wood-contractors' tenders to be furnished by the 4th of May, pontoons by the 9th of May.

No. 116.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 19.)

Vienna, April 18, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
THE information contained in Mr. Green's telegram communicated to me by your Lordship to-day had been already received here, and I have reason to believe that this Government will not intervene in favour of the Mirdites or Bib Doda, beyond recommending the Porte to treat them with leniency, and to endeavour, with a view to its own interest, to induce them to resist Montenegrin allurements and return to their allegiance to the Sultan.

No. 117.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

Foreign Office, April 19, 1877, 3·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to my telegram of the 13th instant, Persian Minister has applied for assistance of Her Majesty's Government to obtain reparation for outrage on pilgrims at Medina. I have told him that I had offered good offices provided they were acceptable to both parties, and that I would instruct you to speak to Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs about the affair. You will do so accordingly.

No. 118.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

Foreign Office, April 19, 1877, 5·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram of the 17th, Captain Napier's journey should not be countermanded on account of threatened Russian occupation of Kizil Arvat. He may

proceed to the frontier; but Her Majesty's Government leave him absolute discretion to carry out, modify, or abandon his original plan in regard to both the Akhals and Mara, according as he may deem expedient on arrival there; it being clearly understood that his personal safety is a paramount consideration.

No. 119.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Jocelyn.

Foreign Office, April 19, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
I AM informed by Admiralty that one of Her Majesty's ships will be kept on coast of Syria for the present.

No. 120.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General Eldridge.

Foreign Office, April 19, 1877, 6·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your despatch No. 18 of March 17, I am informed by Admiralty that one of Her Majesty's ships will be kept on coast of Syria for the present.

No. 121.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 19.)

Vienna, April 19, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
THE Roumanian Agent has requested me to communicate to your Lordship a telegram received yesterday from his Government appealing to the Guaranteeing Powers to use their influence at Constantinople to induce Porte not to invade Principalities. I forward the telegram by post, and hope in the course of the evening to be able to acquaint you with Minister for Foreign Affairs answer to it.

The Agent has received a further telegram to-day, instructing him to propose that the Porte should respect territory of the Principalities on condition that the Roumanian Government should occupy Kalafat, where they are prepared to send 25,000 men, and to hold it against Russia.

No. 122.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 19, at night.)

Vienna, April 19, 1877, 9 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
THE Roumanian Agent informs me that Count Andrassy has written to Constantinople insisting strongly in the sense of Roumanian appeal to Powers to prevent Principalities being made battlefield between Turkey and Russia, because it cannot oppose march of the Russian army to the Danube. He expects to learn to-morrow how far Count Andrassy will support proposal of his Government for neutralizing Kalafat.

In a despatch which I forwarded to your Lordship by messenger this afternoon, I have already mentioned that as the case in question is not provided for in the Treaty of Paris, Count Andrassy does not appear to anticipate that his representations in favour of the wishes of Roumanian Government will be successful.

No. 123.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 20.)

Galatz, April 19, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
CONTRACT made to-day (for?) bread, spirits, barley, hay, for cavalry advance guard; quantity indefinite, but small; to be ready 30th April at Galutz and Cahul (*sic*).

Six field-guns in fortifications.

No. 124.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 20.)

Constantinople, April 19, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING received from Consul at Erzeroom, dated yesterday:—

"Russian Vice-Consulate at Kars was attacked last night by soldiers; windows were broken and entry forced; they were finally repulsed by being fired on. Authorities have placed guards."

No. 125.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 20, 12·40 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 20, 1877, 12·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroom dated 18th instant:—

"Russian Consul received instructions to quit.

"Will leave early next week.

"French Vice-Consul to protect Russian interests.

"Great uneasiness prevails."

No. 126.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 20, 12·40 P.M.)

Scutari, April 20, 1877, 10·30 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TELEGRAPHED to Constantinople:—

"Authorities say Bib Doda has written to offer to deliver himself up.

"Natives state this act will not carry with it submission of whole Mirdicia."

No. 127.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 20, 1·30 P.M.)

Serajevo, April 20, 1877, 12·18 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

BARON MOLINARI, Governor of the Croatian frontier, has written to Austrian Consul here that on the 14th March Mussulmans of Kulen Dakup attacked inhabitants of Orchievo, said to have taken no part in revolt, carried off 400 head of cattle, and killed Vaso Karanovick.

Neither myself or colleagues have heard anything of the massacre of a bridal procession at Glamosh; both places are in the midst of the disturbed country, and anything is possible.

I telegraph to-day to Freeman to go to Glamosh and inquire into matter.

No. 128.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 20.)

Tiflis, April 20, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

FIVE HUNDRED sappers from Russia gone to Orpiri, also 500 local troops. Four battalions of the 38th leave this for the same place to-day. Might not remainder of same division and 20th have gone to south of Tiflis for Alexandropol. Will endeavour to discover. They have not gone through Tiflis, nor have they gone to north-west of it.

No. 129.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 20, 4·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 20, 1877, 3·8 P.M.

EMPEROR of Russia, accompanied by Czarewitch, left this morning for Kischeneff. It is reported that Archduke Albert will meet His Majesty there.

Complete silence here as to period of rupture of relations.

No. 130.

Mr. Jocelyn to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 20, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic) *Constantinople, April* 20, 1877, 3·30 P.M.

I LEARN on good authority that M. Belikoff at present Russian Chargé d'Affaires has been appointed Superintendent of the Diplomatic Chancery, to accompany the army of the Pruth.

Post is one of considerable importance and he will, it is said, receive his instructions directly from Prince Gortchakow, who is to on his visit to camp.

No. 131.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 20, 1877.

NO information has been received here of the continued resistance of the Mirdites to the Turkish authorities, reported by Mr. Green.

No. 132.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 20, 1877, 4 P.M.

THE statement made to me yesterday by the Roumanian Agent is not confirmed by the Under Secretary of State.

His Excellency, on the contrary, says that Roumanian Government has always been advised to maintain a strict neutrality and passive attitude; and that the Porte, in answer to an inquiry as to its intentions and to a suggestion as to expediency of encouraging Roumanian neutrality, had answered that the occupation of Roumanian bank of Danube must be left entirely to the discretion of the military Commanders, and that if Russia invades the Principalities, the Porte cannot be responsible for any disastrous consequences which may follow. The Austrian Government, therefore, consider that representations at Constantinople, in the sense of the Roumanian appeal to the Guaranteeing Powers, would be fruitless.

No. 133.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, April* 20, 1877.

PERSIAN Government continues to disclaim all intention of causing embarrassment to Turkey in her present difficulties. The Shah's feelings are known to be antipathetic to Turkey, and this influences more or less the opinions of his Ministers. The Persian Minister of Foreign Affairs has sent me an unsigned paper in which the grievances of Persia against Turkey are set forth for reference to your Lordship, with the request that Her Majesty's Government should, through friendly advice to the Porte, endeavour to obtain their redress.

Their complaints are—

1. The seizure of Kotoor and other places.

2. The ill-treatment in Turkey of Persian subjects generally, and pilgrims in particular.

3. The continued residence of the Shah's brother at Baghdad in defiance of an official promise given in writing by the Porte.

4. The recent outrages at Medina.

5. The non-settlement of the Turco-Persian boundary question.

I have repeated to the Persian Government that the Porte cannot be expected [here follow five groups undecypperable] arrangement of present circumstances to enter upon or take steps for the adjustment of three of these questions which are of very old standing; but the Shah's Government are evidently desirous to take advantage of the present crisis, either to obtain concessions from Turkey on these points, or to procure a promise of the full support of Her Majesty's Government when they are discussed hereafter, and by mooting the question of the grievances now they leave it open to Persia to continue to maintain friendly relations with Turkey or to break them off as the expediency of the moment may dictate.

No. 134.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 21.)

Galatz, April 20, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

REGULAR Roumanian army leave Bessarabian fortifications, beginning opposite Isaktcha. No heavy guns.

No. 135.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 21.)

Vienna, April 21, 1877, 2 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE sent the following telegram to Mr. Holmes:—

"A telegram, dated Obbrovazzo, 18th April, has been received at Trieste from Mr. Arthur Evans, stating, 'Returned from inquiry into outrages on returned refugees; seen burnt villages Oebievo and neighbourhood; nine massacred. Twenty to twenty-five girls and women outraged; examined twenty-three witnesses at different spots in Croatia and insurgent territory.'"

No. 136.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 21.)

Constantinople, April 21, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

I ARRIVED yesterday afternoon, and had a long interview with Grand Vizier last night; I found him more desperate than warlike. He thinks war inevitable as the pecuniary resources of Empire are exhausted; with 5,000,000*l.* sterling, he said, that negotiations might be prolonged, but without money Turkey must fight at once.

He referred to VIIIth Article of Treaty of Paris of 1856 as the only hope of peace.

I encouraged the idea, suggesting at the same time that if the Powers agreed to mediate, the Sultan might spontaneously decree disarmament. I pointed out to him strongly that there was no change of public opinion in England as regards Turkey, and I begged him not to entertain any illusion on that point; but I observed that if the Porte, by the signal punishment of those who had been concerned in Bulgarian outrages, and by coming to an honourable arrangement with its foreign creditors, gave a proof of its desire to conciliate and satisfy public opinion, its position might be improved. After two hours' discussion he promised to consult his colleagues upon these points, viz., appeal to VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris of 1856, disarmament, should mediation be accepted, punishment of culprits, and arrangement with foreign creditors, and to see me again as soon as possible.

Not having specific instructions from your Lordship on the subject, I did not press strongly appeal to VIIIth Article of Treaty of Paris of 1856. I should be glad to know

as soon as possible whether Her Majesty's Government wish me to do so. As far as I can judge it affords the only chance, although it may be a small one, of avoiding war.

Grand Vizier said that Roumania was threatening new difficulties, complaining of accumulation of Turkish troops on the Danube frontier, while she did not appear to object to presence of Russian troops on the Pruth. Austria, he added, had shown during the last few days a more favourable disposition, and had prevented revolutionary agents from crossing to Bosnia. He anticipates a sudden attack on the part of Russia on Batoum, which he, however, considers well defended.

On the question of sending a special Ambassador to St. Petersburgh, Grand Vizier spoke in very decided language, observing that it was not necessary for bringing about disarmament, and he would not have the whole Eastern question discussed there.

I shall see Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Sultan probably to-morrow.

No. 137.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, April 21, 1877.*

HORSES are being requisitioned in the country by the local authority of Galatz. Prefect has received orders to take measures for safety of archives.

No. 138.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 21, 1877.*

IN reply to your telegram of to-day, Her Majesty's Government fear that it is too late for diplomatic action, but they would be ready to reply favourably to an appeal from the Porte to mediation, if the other Powers would join and Russia accept.

No. 139.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 21, 1877.*

ITALIAN Chargé d'Affaires informs me that, in pursuance of instructions from his Government, he suggested to Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that presence of Emperor Alexander at Kischeneff might afford opportunity to Turkish Government of sending an Ambassador to meet him. I asked whether this suggestion had been made in consequence of any understanding with Russia. He answered that he had no authority to say so, but that he had reason to suppose an Ambassador so sent would be acceptable to Russia.

No. 140.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 21, 1877.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 19th instant, and to Mr. Jocelyn's despatch No. 253 of the 3rd instant, I have informed Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to offer their good offices to arrange differences between Turkey and Persia. His Excellency assures me that he does not apprehend any difficulties between the two countries. He has agreed to send a Commissioner to Medina to inquire into alleged outrages upon Persian subjects, and to punish those who are proved guilty of them. The only question that remains is the removal of the brother of the Shah from Bagdad. Porte has invited the Prince to Constantinople, and the Persian Government have expressed their willingness to this arrangement. I have telegraphed to Consul-General to use his influence to induce the Prince to accept the invitation. Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs states to me that he has received the most positive

assurances from Persian Government that there is no secret Treaty between Persia and Russia, and that the Shah could not assist Russia without violating the religious sentiment of his people. His Excellency attaches little importance to the military ressources of Persia, and does not apprehend any attack on her part on the Bagdad frontier.

No. 141.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 21, 1877.

I HAVE just seen Minister for Foreign Affairs, and I have urged upon him in the strongest manner the importance of making a further attempt to avoid war, using the same arguments and making the same suggestions as in the interview with the Grand Vizier, referred to in my telegram of this morning.

I found that the Grand Vizier had already seen Minister for Foreign Affairs, and had informed him of what had passed between us last night.

It appears to me that there is a disposition to take step mentioned in my telegram, viz., a last appeal to the Powers for mediation.

A Council will probably be held on the subject immediately, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs has promised to see me as soon as the decision is come to; I would therefore be very glad to have your Lordship's views on the subject.

I found his Excellency very apprehensive of a sudden attack on Batoum. He stated that Prince Charles of Roumania, accompanied by Russian officers, was about to superintend measures to be taken for the defence of Kalafat.

No. 142.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 21, 1877.

I HAVE reason to believe that the language I have held to the Grand Vizier and the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has had some effect. I am assured that at a Council to-day the idea of making a last appeal to the Powers under the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris was favourably entertained, and that war party is losing ground.

It would be of the greatest importance if I could suggest to the Turkish Government, with the authority of Her Majesty's Government, some course which might possibly be accepted by Russia, and induce her to suspend hostilities; but no time should be lost in doing so. Russian Chargé d'Affaires tells me that he has not yet had orders to leave Constantinople, but expects to receive them in the course of next week.

No. 143.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 21, 1877.

I LEARN that a Circular despatch was forwarded by Prince Gortchakow yesterday to Great Courts explanatory of Russian policy and preparatory to issue of Manifesto.

No. 144.

Consul Holmes to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, April* 21, 1877.

FRESH outrages at Otchievo having been notified to me by Sir A. Buchanan on the authority of Mr. Evans, I have directed Freeman to go on from Glamosh to that place. He starts on Tuesday.

No. 145.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 21, 1877.

FOLLOWING from Consul at Adrianople:—

"Russian Consul has taken down Imperial coat of arms, and quitted Adrianople yesterday."

No. 146.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 21, 1877.

FOLLOWING received from Consul at Erzeroum, dated to-day:—

"Russian Consul just left for Gumri; expedited departure, fearing hostile manifestation on road. Flag not taken down."

No. 147.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, April* 21, 1877.

THE new Turkish Ambassador says that if he could be assured that disarmament would be obtained by sending a Turkish Envoy to the Emperor Alexander on the plea of complimenting His Majesty in the usual way on his approaching the Turkish frontier, he would telegraph to advise the Sultan to take this step, and thinks His Majesty would do so.

He adds that French Minister for Foreign Affairs, although approving of idea, says that French Government cannot give the required assurance.

No. 148.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, April* 22, 1877.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, French Minister for Foreign Affairs seems to think that the suggestion of the Turkish Ambassador comes too late and to be unwilling to have anything to do with it.

No. 149.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April* 22, 1877.

THE Italian Government will willingly take part with the other Powers in mediation, if it is asked for by the Porte and accepted by Russia.

No. 150.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 22, 1877.

I HAVE acquainted Minister for Foreign Affairs with your Lordship's answer to Mr. Layard's telegram of yesterday as to an appeal by the Porte to the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris. His Excellency sees no probability of mediation being accepted by Russia, as he himself suggested at St. Petersburgh on the 18th instant, that negotiations might be renewed if the Porte would send Envoy to compliment Emperor Alexander

on his arrival at Kischeneff, as would have been done under normal circumstances, and who should have power to negotiate an amicable arrangement of the question at issue between the two Governments; but Prince Gortchakow answered that Italian Government had already made abortive attempt at Constantinople to bring about a mediation, that it was now too late, and that Russian Manifesto had been despatched.

No. 151.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 22.)

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, April 22, 1877.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs informs me that Emperor William intends to appoint Prince Reuss Ambassador to Constantinople on special service.

No. 152.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, April 22, 1877.*

HOBART PASHA arrived last night; leaves to-day. No civility shown him by authorities. He said to me, "If battery fires Galatz public buildings will be destroyed."

Two turret ships [have] passed.

No. 153.

Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, April 22, 1877.*

ROUMANIAN Government maintain that under Austrian Convention military may be quartered on foreigners.

Our Declaration appears to me to relate merely to Customs duty, and has nothing to say to other conditions of the Austrian Convention.

I await your Lordship's instructions.

No. 154.

Mr. Monson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettigné, April 22, 1877.*

PRINCE'S Secretary read to me confidentially this morning draft of a Circular to the Great Powers, justifying Montenegrin policy during the negotiations and declaring that the Prince had wished to be conciliatory but that he could not abandon the Kutchi and the refugees.

Circular ends with the hope that Europe will succour the women and children in the event of the Turks overrunning the Principality.

I hope to receive the text in time for to-morrow's post.

No. 155.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 22, 1877, 11·30 P.M.*

IF, as appears from the statement of the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, reported in your telegram, there is reason to believe that the mission of an Ambassador from the Porte to meet the Emperor of Russia would be acceptable to Russia, the Porte would be well-advised to send one, and to let Russian Government know at once.

My telegram of yesterday will have informed you of views of Her Majesty's Government as to appealing to VIIIth Article of Treaty of Paris.

* Repeated to Embassies.

I have asked Lord A. Loftus if he knows of any course which would be accepted by Russia.

No. 156.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 22, 1877, 11·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to the telegrams from and to Mr. Layard, repeated to you to-day, do you know of any course which could be suggested to the Porte which there is reason to believe would be accepted by Russia, and induce suspension of hostilities.

No. 157.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 23, 2 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 23, 1877, 12·10 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires has received orders to suspend relations at once with the Porte, and I am informed that he will probably leave to-night, but up to this moment he has addressed no communication on the subject to the Turkish Government.

No. 158.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 23, 3 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, April 23, 1877, 11·40 A.M.*

SMALL detachment of Russian troops with officers arrived here this morning by railway from Jassy.

No. 159.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 23, 1877.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 21st instant, Persian Minister informs me that the arrangement he had come to with the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs for a Joint Commission to inquire into affair of Medina has been rejected by the Council, and that Turkish Government now insist upon sending a Turkish Commissioner only, a proposal which the Persian Government will not accept. I will speak again on the subject to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Persian Minister told me that he had full powers to conclude a Treaty with Turkey, offensive and defensive, and that he had mentioned the fact to the Sultan, but had not yet entered into communication on the subject with the Turkish Ministers. He confirmed what Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs had told me with reference to the feeling in Persia against Russia; but he added that if the Turkish Government wished to avail themselves of it they must perceive justice of claims of Persia.

No. 160.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, April 23, 1877, 3·15 P.M.*

THE War Office wish to ascertain, if possible, from Philippopolis the condition of the country south of the Balkans, and what supplies it would be likely to afford to an invading army.

Try and obtain this information from the Consul, or by any other available means.

No. 161.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April* 23, 1877, 3·30 P.M.
(Confidential.)

THE Admiralty wish to know the state of preparation of the Russian ships in the Baltic.

No. 162.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 23, 4 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April* 23, 1877, 1·50 P.M.

THE idea of suggesting to Sultan to send an Envoy to Kischeneff came from M. Nigra, but almost immediately after sending instructions to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, Italian Government learnt from Vienna that, in reply to an inquiry which had been made by Austrian Government as to whether the Emperor would receive Turkish Envoy, the Russian Government had said that it was now too late.

No. 163.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 23, 4·19 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 23, 1877, 3 P.M.

OFFICIAL telegram states that Emperor after review yesterday addressed officers and men, wishing them farewell and speedy and glorious return.

No. 164.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 23, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, April* 23, 1877, 3·20 P.M.

THIRD battalion of Russian brigade of railway service arrives at Jassy to-day. Turkish monitors are in position at bridge at Barbosh. Passage of the Pruth in force probable for to-morrow.

No. 165.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April* 23, 1877.

I READ to-day to the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs a Memorandum on the present situation at Constantinople which I drew up from your telegrams of yesterday received this morning. He doubted the Italian proposal having been made with the sanction of Russia, and fears that unless immediate action has now been (? taken) by the Porte, the previous publication of a manifesto may prevent a Turkish Envoy being received by the Emperor Alexander. I said if the concessions of the Porte are complete, Russia could hardly put herself in the wrong by refusing them; and he answered that although Minister for Foreign Affairs would certainly do anything in his power to (? prevent) war, his Excellency fears that time is now too short for successful peace-making.

A Russian courier passed through Vienna this morning on his way to Italy, but the Ambassadors have not yet received Russian (? Circular).

No. 166.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, April* 23, 1877.

I HAVE communicated the substance of your Lordship's telegrams of yesterday to Minister for Foreign Affairs. His Excellency says that the German Government will gladly co-operate with Her Majesty's Government and the other Powers if the Porte make the appeal announced by Mr. Layard, but it should be made at once before it is too late.

No. 167.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 23, *night.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April* 23, 1877.

I HAVE just seen Russian Chargé d'Affaires, who informs me that he will address this afternoon, by order of his Government, a note to the Porte to the effect that all attempts of the Russian Government in accord with the Powers to bring about a solution of the pending difficulties having failed, he is directed to suspend diplomatic relations with the Turkish Government, and that he will leave Constantinople with the Embassy this afternoon. He added that he would tell me confidentially that he is instructed not to make any allusion to war. He expresses his personal opinion that there is no reason to apprehend immediate hostilities. The Emperor, he said, was paying a visit to his army at Kischeneff, and would probably continue his tour in other parts of Southern Russia.

I pressed him to give me his idea what Russia might expect; he said, without having any authority whatever to express an opinion, it seemed to him not impossible that if the Porte sent an Ambassador to meet the Emperor, who would state that Turkey accepted the Protocol of London, such a step might lead to some result; but he was by no means certain that it would.

On the whole, I judge from his language that Russia is still wavering. He told me that he should see the Emperor in a couple of days, and that he would inform him of my earnest desire to bring about a peaceful solution. I am doing all that I possibly can in every direction in the interest of peace.

The Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs prepared the day before yesterday, after my interview with him, a Circular to the Powers, which, I am assured, was of a conciliatory character, but unfortunately warlike counsels prevailed, and it was decided at the Council not to send it. It was proposed instead to appeal to the Parties to the Tripartite Treaty to afford Turkey armed assistance, and to call upon Prince Charles of Roumania categorically to declare his intentions with regard to the Porte, but no decision has yet, I believe, been come to.

I am to see the Sultan to-morrow, and I am in hopes that the influence I have been able to bring to bear upon him has produced a favourable impression; but there are persons in the Palace who are doing their utmost to counteract it, and to induce him to precipitate the country into war.

No. 168.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 23, *at night.)*

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April* 23, 1877.

I HAVE just seen Prince Gortchakow.

His Highness, in reply to my inquiry in regard to any possible means of averting war, stated that it was too late, as the Russian troops were on the eve of marching.

He observed in regard to appeal to VIIIth Article of Treaty of Paris, that it had been already exhausted by Protocol of London, and he considered the Turkish Circular in reply to it as a declaration of war. His Highness added that sending an Ambassador to Kischeneff was useless, as the Porte was unable to make any suitable offer after its attitude and that of the Chamber in regard to the Protocol.

I gathered from his Highness' language that nothing short of an abject submission on the part of the Porte could avert hostilities.

An idea is prevalent here that the Porte, from a want of funds, cannot disband its army without danger to the country.

No. 169.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 24.)

Cairo, April 23, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
WARNING has been given to the Viceroy both by my French and Russian colleagues, that any assistance to Turkey will probably be punished by reprisals, such as blockade of Egyptian ports, &c. On the other hand the Viceroy has been peremptorily summoned by the Porte to state immediately what number of men he will send. Surely any pressure of the Powers should be employed at Constantinople to prevent demand for assistance, rather than upon the Viceroy who can scarcely refuse it.

No. 170.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 24.)

Constantinople, April 24, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
NOTHING whatever has been done towards constructing the lines for the defence of Constantinople and Adrianople. Turkish Government allege that they have no money for the purpose. I have this on the best authority.

I venture to suggest that Sir A. Kemball should be now placed directly under my orders. In case of war he might be sent to Erzeroum and the Armenian frontier.

No. 171.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 24, 5·15 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 24, 1877, 2·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
I HAVE just learnt on good authority that the Porte has accepted the proposal to appeal to the Powers for mediation under the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris.

No. 172.

Colonel Nixon to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 24.)

Baghdad, April 24, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
MESSENGER arrived. Persian regular troops at Kermanshah not withdrawn; eighteen guns and ten regiments infantry in camp outside town. Kurdish militia ordered to Senendu (Sehna?).

No. 173.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 24, 3 P.M.)

St. Petersburgh, April 24, 1877, 1·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
THIS morning's paper publishes an Imperial Manifesto, stating all pacific efforts on the part of Europe having failed, the Emperor of Russia is obliged to redeem his pledge given at Moscow, and orders his troops to cross Turkish frontier.

Prince Gortchakow's Circular to Russian Representatives at Great Courts, referred to in my telegram of 21st instant, is also published.

Both documents will be probably communicated to your Lordship to-day by Russian Ambassador.

No. 174.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 24, 3.15 P.M.)

Galatz, April 24, 1877, 11·20 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)
TWELVE thousand Russian troops crossed last night at Bolgrad, 5,000 at Jassy. Roumanian troops have left Jassy.

No. 175.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 24, 3·45 P.M.)

Bucharest, April 24, 1877, 2·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
PROCLAMATION made to-day by the Grand Duke Nicholas to the Roumanian people that the Russian army will pass to-day on to Roumanian territory to fight Turks. Passage of the Pruth certain to-day, 24th April.

No. 176.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, April 24, 1877, 4·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
YOUR telegram of the 23rd, respecting the statements made to you by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, has been treated as Confidential, and not repeated to St. Petersburgh or other Embassies.

No. 177.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, April 24, 1877, 4·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
HER Majesty's Government approve your exertions for peace, as reported in your telegram of 23rd instant.

No. 178.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 24.)

Vienna, April 24, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
I HAVE informed Under-Secretary of State that the Governments of Germany and Italy will both co-operate with Her Majesty's Government and the other Powers if the Porte makes an appeal under the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris. The intelligence received here from Constantinople, however, gives little hope of Mr. Layard's recommendations being adopted by the Turkish Government.

No. 179.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

Foreign Office, April 24, 1877.

(Telegraphic.,
WITH reference to your telegram of this day you may tell Mr. Monson he may go to Scutari. He probably need not remain longer in Montenegro now war is declared by Russia, unless he thinks it necessary.

No. 180.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24, 6 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 24, 1877, 2 P.M.*

COLONEL WELLESLEY states that the mobilization of the 20th, 21st, and 38th Infantry divisions is ordered. Entire regular army in the Caucasus is thus now mobilized. It is supposed that Batoum and Trebizond will be captured.

Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, with the personnel of the Embassy, leave to-morrow.

No. 181.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Representatives in Europe, Tehran, and Washington, and to Her Majesty's Consuls at Belgrade, Bucharest, Cairo, and Cettigné.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 24, 1877, 6 P.M.*

I HAVE received to-day from the Russian Ambassador the Russsian Circular.

It refers at length to the Protocol as having been suggested by Russia as a last attempt at conciliation.

The refusal of the Protocol by the Porte leaves no hope of Turkey deferring to the wishes of Europe, or any guarantee for application of reforms.

Nothing remains except to let this state of things continue, or to obtain by force what the Powers have failed to obtain by persuasion.

The Russian armies are ordered to cross the Turkish frontier. In assuming this task, the Emperor fulfils a duty which is imposed on him by the interests of Russia, whose pacific development is injuriously affected by the continual troubles of the East.

No. 182.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, April 24, 1877.*

ROUMANIAN forces have left Kalafat and Galatz, and cover the capital.

Twelve thousand Russians crossed last night at Bolgrad. Rossian passage has been effected without giving any notice whatever to Prince Charles or Government of Roumania.

Latter much disconcerted by this absence of consideration.

No. 183.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 24, 1877.*

THE Grand Vizier has asked my advice as to requesting Her Majesty's Government to take Turkish interests and subjects in Russia under their protection. I have thought it better to advise him not to do so, but rather to address himself to a Power not interested in the questions pending between Russia and Turkey.

His Highness also asked my advice as to ordering Russian subjects to quit Turkish territory. I replied that I thought it would be more prudent and dignified to inform them that they should be protected so long as they conform to the laws.

No. 184.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 24, 1877.*

THE determination to appeal to the Powers under the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris was come to after a severe struggle against the war party last night, and M. Musurus was ordered to make the appeal at once to your Lordship.

I presume that he has done so to-day. It may be important to observe that the appeal was decided upon in conformity with terms of Article before Russia had declared her intention to go to war and had sent troops into Moldavia.

No. 185.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 24, 1877.*

IN his telegram, just received, Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh states that Prince Gortchakow has addressed him a note to the effect that grave discussions which the Russian Cabinet has been under the necessity of having with the Porte, with a view to a duration of pacification of the East, not having brought about the understanding desired, Emperor finds himself compelled to have recourse to force of arms. Chargé d'Affaires is requested to inform the Turkish Government that Russia considers herself from this day in a state of war with Turkey, and that, consequently, diplomatic relations cease.

Prince Gortchakow added that Ottoman subjects who desire to remain in Russia are fully assured of the protection of the law.

Grand Vizier states to me that Russian troops have entered to-day into Moldavia, and have advanced upon Jassy, and the Roumanian troops have retired (?).

He represents urgently that Russia has acted without any previous declaration of war, and he informs me that the Turkish fleet will be at once sent into the Black Sea.

No. 186.

Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, April 24, 1877.*

CONSUL for Russia here has struck his flag and leaves.

Russian subjects remain under French Consul.

No. 187.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, April 24, 1877.*

WAR declared here to-day. Ottoman Consul awaits answer to his last telegram from Constantinople; his services merit every consideration from his Government; please communicate this to Turkish authorities.

Despatch No. 55 sent.

Turks here said to have assumed offensive.

No. 188.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, April 24, 1877.*

SOME Cossacks have arrived.

No. 189.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, April 24, 1877.*

NEWS of Turkish troops having entered Orosci on Sunday is confirmed. Inhabitants, however, as well as those of other villages, have all withdrawn to more inaccessible places.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 190.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, April 24, 1877, 9 P.M.*

I AM informed that before even the publication of the Manifesto Russian railway battalion entered Jassy yesterday, and that Police, Telegraph, and Postal Departments are already in Russian hands. Two Turkish gun-boats threaten to blow up the railway bridge leading over the Sereth at Galatz.

No. 191.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 24, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 24, 1877.*
(Secret.)

IN case news of entry of Russian troops into Moldavia is confirmed, do Her Majesty's Government wish me to get Turkish Government to invite fleet to Constantinople in virtue of IInd Article of Treaty of 1871?

It is very important there should be one if not two fast boats stationed here. We have now only the "Rapid" and "Antelope," which have no speed at all.

No. 192.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25, 11·28 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 25, 1877, 10 A.M.*

I HAVE had an interesting conversation with the Kashgar Envoy yesterday, and he appears to be intelligent and well-informed.

His views and information with regard to condition of Central Asia and the position of Russia in it seem well worth attention.

I think he should go to England at once, and I venture to suggest privately that the expenses of his journey and residence there should be paid.

No. 193.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 25, 1877.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 24th instant, I have been informed by Mr. Blunt, who is here on his way to Adrianople, that the district of Philippopolis is one of the richest of European Turkey, and that it and the plain of Moritza would afford ample supplies to invading army.

Mr. Blunt goes to his post, and I have directed him to procure fullest information on this subject as soon as possible.

No. 194.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Vivian.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877, 2·5 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 23rd, you are carefully to avoid joining in any pressure which may be attempted to be put on the Khedive with reference to the amount of assistance which he shall send to the Porte.

No. 195.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877.*

HER Majesty's Government approve the advice given by you to the Porte as reported in your telegram of yesterday.

No. 196.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877, 2·30 P.M.*

IN reply to your Secret telegram of the 24th, Her Majesty's Government think it would be inexpedient, under present circumstances, for you to induce Turkish Government to invite fleet to Constantinople.

No. 197.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877, 3·30 P.M.*

AS war has broken out between Russia and Turkey and England remains neutral, it will be impossible for Hobart Pasha to continue at once to hold his position as a Naval Officer in the British Service and to command the Turkish Navy. Intimate this to him.

No. 198.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General Stanley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877, 4·15 P.M.*

I AM informed that the "Romulus," with coal bound for Odessa, was warned off yesterday by the Russian authorities and not allowed to enter.

Another British vessel with general cargo bound for Odessa is also stated to have been warned off and ordered to Nicolaieff.

Have any and what regulations been made by the Russian authorities with regard to the entry and departure of neutral ships at Odessa and other Russian ports in the Black Sea.

No. 199.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 25, 1877, 4·30 P.M.*

ENDEAVOUR to ascertain from the Government to which you are accredited whether they propose to reply to Prince Gortchakow's Circular of the 19th, and in what sense.

No. 200.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 25, 5·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, April 25, 1877, 2·45 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Circular not yet received here. Expected to-day. When the declaration of war is communicated Proclamation of Neutrality will be issued and Minister appointed to Constantinople.

* Identic telegrams were sent to Sir A. Paget, Lord Odo Russell, and Sir A. Buchanan.

Yesterday Roumanian Agent communicated despatch asking Italian Government to urge the Porte to respect Roumanian neutrality. M. Melegari replied it was too late, especially in view of the circumstances of Roumania towards Russia.

Italian Consul-General at Bucharest reports that Roumania is preparing to oppose passage of the Danube by Turkish troops.

No. 201.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25, 6 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 25, 1877, 2·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

SAID PASHA has just informed me that news have been received that the Russian troops have crossed the Armenian frontier, and that it is believed some skirmishes have already taken place between Turkish and Russian cavalry.

No. 202.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25.)

Tehran, April 25, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Minister has mentioned to Persian Government that General Franchini, formerly Military Attaché at Constantinople, now Chief of Daghistan and Turkoman Department at Tiflis, is coming here on his way to join Lomakine. The object of his taking this route is not apparent.

No. 203.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25, 8·30 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 25, 1877, 2·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.)

THE Sultan has sent Saïd Pasha, the head of his military household, to beg me on his part to represent to Her Majesty's Government that Russia without any previous declaration of war has suddenly crossed the Pruth and the Asiatic frontiers of Turkey, and has already commenced hostilities against her; that such a proceeding appears to His Majesty to be in violation of the usages of civilized nations and of international law; that Turkey had given no cause to Russia thus to treat her with insult and violence as if she were a dependent province; His Imperial Majesty under these circumstances makes an earnest appeal to Her Majesty's Government for their opinion and advice. He says that he must fight to defend himself, but is still ready to do anything that may be in his power to avoid a general war. I told Saïd Pasha that I should communicate Sultan's message to your Lordship, but the only advice I could give was that the Turkish Government should act with the greatest possible prudence.

No. 204.

Mr. St. John to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25, 10·45 P.M.)

Belgrade, April 25, 1877, 5·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

PRINCE MILAN informed me last night that the Grand Vizier had communicated to him the declaration of war with Russia.

His Highness told me that he desired to remain neutral, but if the Turks attempt to cross Servian frontier, they will be vigorously resisted.

No. 205.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25, 10·45 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 25, 1877, 6·35 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my telegram of the 23rd instant, the French and Austrian Chargé d'Affaires inform me that Russian Chargé d'Affaires held to them precisely the same language as he held to me, as reported to your Lordship.

The Russian Dragoman, when communicating the Chargé d'Affaires' note to the Porte, declared explicitly that there was no declaration of war, and that immediate hostilities need not be apprehended.

The Turkish Government declare that the Russian troops had crossed the Asiatic frontier nine hours before Prince Gortchakow had sent his note to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh.

No. 206.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25, 11 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 25, 1877, 7·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

MINISTER of War states that yesterday morning, six hours before the declaration of war, from 10,000 to 15,000 Russian troops entered Ottoman territory by way of Gamri, and advanced towards Ismoum; they took prisoner the sentinels of the outposts. Russians also invaded the Ottoman territory near Ensurghe and Akidia, their advance being opposed by irregular troops.

No news from Danube. Troops left to-day for Batoum.

No. 207.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25, *at night.*)

Constantinople, April 25, 1877, 9·55 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.)

TURKISH Government contemplate establishment at once of search of all vessels passing through Bosphorus, in order to prevent arms and contraband of war being sent to Russia; to give a short delay to Russian merchant ships to quit Turkish harbours, and to issue immediate orders for seizure of Russian vessels on the high seas.

I should be glad if Her Majesty's Government could inform me, with as little delay as possible, of their views on these points, as there may be still time to give advice to the Porte.

No. 208.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 25, *at night.*)

Constantinople, April 25, 1877, 9·47 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed, on good authority, that the Khedive has undertaken to supply immediately 15,000 troops to the Porte, under the command of one of his sons.

No. 209.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 26.)

Galatz, April 25, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

1,600 cavalry, 900 infantry, 2 field batteries, each of 6 guns, passed through Galatz. 200 cavalry, 2,000 infantry at Ismail. Railway making from Marash(este) to Buzen.

No. 210.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26.)

Vienna, April 25, 1877, 11 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FROM Monson, dated to-day, to Lord Derby :—

"I received your telegram of yesterday, which was the first intimation here of the rupture of relations.

"Prince Nicholas informs me that he will remain for the present on the defensive. He has reports of the advance of the Turkish troops in the Herzegovina, and is in constant communication with the Austrian Agent as to their probable operations.

Being too unwell to go myself, I have sent Mr. Bland to Scutari with the cypher and with instructions to urge the punctual fulfilment of the convention for the grain transport, about which His Highness is most anxious. I have prepared Prince Nicholas for the probability of my speedy departure for Vienna, which, however, I wish to arrange so as to avoid its being put to a mischievous significance by the Russian Agent. Of course, I await your Lordship's orders on this subject.

No. 211.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26.)

Constantinople, April 25, 1877, 11·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE seen draft of Manifesto of Turkish Government with regard to Russian subjects and vessels and commerce of neutrals.

Firstly. It gives Russian subjects five days to leave Ottoman territories; those who remain are to be placed under authority and protection of Turkish laws, tribunals, and administration.

Secondly. Five days are given Russian vessels to leave Ottoman ports, but they are not to be allowed to pass Straits from the Mediterranean into the Black Sea and *vice versâ*.

Thirdly. Porte declares its intention of adhering to rules of maritime law laid down in the Declaration of Paris.

Fourthly. In order to prevent contraband of war, Porte will exercise rights of visit on high seas, in Ottoman waters, and with regard to neutral vessels on their passage through the Straits, bound for a Russian port or for a point on the coast occupied by the enemy, and even, in case of suspicious vessels, when bound for an Ottoman or neutral porte.

Fifthly. These regulations are to enter immediately into operation, and to be communicated to foreign Representatives at Constantinople, and to be inserted in the "Official Gazette."

The Khedive, in making known these regulations, shall state that they apply to the Suez Canal, as well as to the Bosphorus and Dardanelles.

No. 212.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26.)

Constantinople, April 26, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed, on good authority, that the Sultan has expressed his determination to join his army on the Danube, and has declared that if defeated he would die in battle rather than return to Constantinople. He has addressed a proclamation to the commanders of troops in Europe and Asia which is temperate and dignified. He states that Russia has declared war against Turkey, and that, consequently, relying upon the aid of God and the Prophet, she is, on her side, compelled to have recourse to arms; that it is known to them that he has always desired peace and tranquillity, and that, although with arms in his hand he has had but one desire in his heart, peace; that he has listened to the counsels of friendly Powers, and had laboured with them to obtain this result, but the enemy of Turkey, with the object of destroying her rights and independence and the country, has shown that he will not be satisfied without their sacrifice. On this account, without legitimate motive, Russia has attacked Turkey.

The Sultan expresses his reliance upon God for the protection of life and justice, and

his hopes that his soldiers will defend the glory and honour of the Ottoman name and flag. He salutes the general officers and soldiers, and relies upon their defending against the enemy those positions which secure the rights, honour, and independence of the Ottomans. He prays for them and assures them that the nation will take under its protection the children and wives of its soldier brothers. If necessary His Majesty will take the sacred flag of the Khalifat and Sultanship and will join them, and will be ready to sacrifice his life in the cause of right, honour, and the independence of his country. May God, he ends, give us victory!

No. 213.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26, noon.)

Paris, April 26, 1877, 10·30 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs thinks that Prince Gortchakow's Circular of the 19th should not be answered at all; that an answer would only produce inconvenient controversy.

No. 214.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26, 1·40 P.M.)

Berlin, April 26, 1877, 12·32 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE German Government do not intend to reply in writing to the notification of Prince Gortchakow's Circular of the 19th, the Minister for Foreign Affairs having already acknowledged the receipt virtually when it was communicated by the Russian Ambassador on the 24th instant.

No. 215.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, April 26, 1877, 2·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

ASK the Russian Government whether they consider the present state of relations with Turkey as constituting a state of war.

It is necessary that we should have from them an official statement on this point.

No. 216.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26.)

Tehran, April 26, 1877, 1·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I REQUESTED Persian Minister to inform the Shah that the Porte had agreed to send a Commissioner to Medina to investigate the alleged outrage there, and to punish those proved guilty, and to invite the Shah's brother to come to Constantinople.

At a second interview yesterday, the Minister assured me that His Majesty had approved of these arrangements. He further informed me that this has been communicated by telegram to Persian Minister at the Porte.

No. 217.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26.)

Tehran, April 26, 1877, 1·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 24th, I have ascertained that the Persian Minister at Constantinople has not full powers to conclude a Treaty with Turkey. The Sultan having alluded to the subject, he was authorized to talk it over, but was ordered to put nothing on paper.

No. 218.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, April 26, 1877, 3·25 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 24th, tell Sir A. Kemball that Her Majesty's Government request him to consider himself directly under your orders.

They wish him to proceed at once to the seat of war in Asia Minor.

No. 219.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26, 6 P.M.)

Rome, April 26, 1877, 4 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Russian Circular was only presented yesterday, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs desires to consult his colleagues as to terms in which it should be answered. In his Excellency's opinion it might be confined to a simple acknowledgment, with the expression of the regret that the efforts of the Powers to preserve peace have been unsuccessful, and the hope that the final result of the war may be in the interests of civilization and humanity.

Yesterday Turkish Minister communicated the appeal (?) of the Porte for mediation under the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Paris. M. Melegari replied that he had already signified willingness of the Italian Government to take part with other Powers in mediation if it was accepted by Russia, but feared it was now too late.

If anything is feasible, M. Melegari thinks Porte should endeavour to act before hostilities actually commence.

No. 220.

Colonel Nixon to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26, *at night.)*

Bagdad, April 26, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

RESIDENCY steamer has a crew of Turkish subjects liable to recall at any moment by Turkish Government; can twenty men and an officer be sent from the ships-of-war in the Persian Gulf?

No. 221.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26, *at night.)*

Odessa, April 26, 1877, 1·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

NO English vessels have been prevented entering Odessa. "Romulus" arrived yesterday and is discharging.

Belgian steamer was ordered by Customs to discharge at Nicolaieff. Governor protested and telegraphed Petersburgh and order was countermanded.

All vessels arriving or leaving Odessa must be navigated by Russian crews, their own masters and crews going below while passing through mined channel. This applies equally to Russian vessels.

I sent copy of regulations and of my letter to Governor on Tuesday.

No. 222.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26, *at night.)*

Constantinople, April 26, 1877, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Government inform me that the Russians have sustained defeat from Turkish volunteers commanded by Ali Pasha at Tchuruk Su, near Batoum, with loss of 800 killed and wounded.

Turkish ironclads are bombarding Poti.

No. 223.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26, *night.)*

(Telegraphic.)

(Confidential.)

Vienna, April 26,1877, 6·45 P.M.

I WAS told at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to-day that Count Andrassy had not yet taken any decision as to answering the Russian Circular of the 19th instant.

My Italian colleague is of opinion that, as a simple acknowledgment of its receipt might be misrepresented as an adherence to its assumptions, the safest course is to leave it without any reply.

No. 224.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26, *night.)*

(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, April 26, 1877, 8·15 P.M.

SINCE forwarding previous telegram this afternoon relative to Russian Circular, I have seen Minister for Foreign Affairs, who told me that he had telegraphed to Count Beust that as an answer had not been asked for, an acknowledgment of receipt of the Circular would suffice. On my asking him, however, whether he had considered the possibility of a simple acknowledgment being interpreted as a tacit admission of the validity of the grounds on which Russia had declared war, he said that though he thought this unlikely to occur it might be better to do nothing whatever, and he authorized me to inform his Lordship that he would follow that course.

No. 225.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26, *night.)*

(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, April 26, 1877, 8·30 P.M.

I LEARN from Turkish Ambassador that Minister for Foreign Affairs has stated to him that as Russia will not send troops into Servia as long as the Porte abstains from occupying any part of the Principality, he has instructed Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople to ask for a declaration that Servian neutrality will be strictly respected; and he expressed at the same time an opinion that the Porte need be under no apprehension of the Principality engaging in war.

No. 226.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 26, *night.)*

(Telegraphic.)

(Very Confidential.)

St. Petersburgh, April 26, 1877, 1 P.M.

I THINK it my duty to inform your Lordship that the language held here by Russian society in general, although bearing no official character, leads to the supposition that it is intended to push on with concentrated force to Constantinople.

No. 227.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27.)

(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, April 26, 1877, 10 P.M.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW has replied by a private letter to my official inquiry as instructed by your Lordship, that "we are incontestably in a state of war with Turkey."

No. 228.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27.)

Trebizond, April 25, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

PASHA received last night telegram stating that Russians crossed yesterday Turkish Asiatic frontier.

No. 229.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27, 9·15 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Constantinople, April 26, 1877, 11·45 A.M.*

FOREIGN military authorities here appear to concur with some of ours in thinking that Turkish army on the Danube is so ill-distributed that Russians may have a signal success, and make much more rapid advance on Constantinople than might be expected. I can form no opinion on the subject, but I think it right to give your Lordship this information.

No. 230.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1877, 12·3 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

GREEK Minister states to me that, for the present, there is no reason to apprehend any movement on the part of the Greeks against Turkey, but that if the Turkish army suffers a signal defeat, Greek Government will not any longer be able to restrain their people, and that attempt will be made to invade or raise Thessaly and Macedonia. He says that he has frankly told this to the Porte, and warns it to lose no time in making the concessions demanded by the Christian population, in order to avoid immediate difficulties.

No. 231.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27, 10·30 A.M.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1877, 8 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

SIR A. KEMBALL will start for the seat of war in Asia Minor without delay, but suggests, as the line of operations is extensive, a staff of officers to assist him is urgently required: proposes Captains Trotter, R.E.; Macdonnot, Cavalry; and Fyfe, Staff Corps; who have volunteered.

No. 232.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27, noon.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1877, 9 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

PORTE is, I am informed, much discouraged by the action of the Austrian Government in stopping the entry into Turkey of 800 horses, which it had purchased a short time ago.

No. 233.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27.)

Pera, April 27, 1877, 10·30 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Porte has prepared a Manifesto with reference to the war, which will be published at once. After a lengthy recital of preceding events, from its point of view, the

Porte accuses Russia of enforcing by arms her ambitious policy, and declares that she will find on her path a whole people armed for the defence of their territories and hearths, and for the maintenance of the rights of their Sovereign and the independence of their country. Europe should know the truth, and, whether in victory or defeat, Turkey should be released from the responsibility of the war. It therefore affirms that the Christians of Herzegovina, Bosnia, and Bulgaria rose at the instigation of Slav Committees organized and paid by Russia; that Servia and Montenegro took up arms against their Suzerain at her invitation; that they only sustained the struggle by her aid, and that all the evils that have befallen Turkey during the last two years are due to the ostensible and secret, but always present, actions of Russia. Europe is invited to be the judge of these facts. Russia is declared to be the enemy of both Christians and Mussulmans. She pretends to have armed to protect the Christians at a time when the most liberal Constitution has been granted, placing all Ottomans on a complete equality. Turkey has invited Russia and the other Powers of Europe to see and judge.

Russia has answered by a declaration of war without first asking for mediation, as she was bound to do under the Treaty of Paris. In violation of all rules observed in such cases by civilized States, she notified her declaration of war to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh at the (same time as) by her own Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople; but, in the night preceding the declaration of war, she had already invaded the Ottoman territory. History will record these facts.

The Ottoman army is about to march against the aggressors, to defend the sacred principles of national independence and the honour and dignity of the people and of their Sovereign, and to repel the most odious and criminal of enterprises.

Let God protect the right.

No. 234.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27, 4·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret. No. 8.) *Constantinople, April 27, 1877, 1 P.M.*

I HAVE had a very confidential conversation with Blubin Pasha. He is ill-satisfied with the manner in which Turkish army in Europe is distributed, and anticipates reverses which may bring Russians across the Balkan much sooner than is expected.

He says that he has offered advice in vain.

If Her Majesty's Government thought it vital and desirable to send some English officer of experience and weight out here, who might influence Turkish counsels before it is too late, it might be of great importance to do so.

I venture to mention the name of Sir Collingwood Dickson to Lord Beaconsfield, as he is known to the Turks, and formerly had much influence over them. As General Kemball is going to Asia Minor, and Colonel Lennox is on the Danube, there will be no British officer here to advise and assist me.

No. 235.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 27, 1877, 1·45 P.M.*

FOLLOWING has been communicated to me to-day by Minister for Foreign Affairs: 2,000 Djaf families ready to serve eventually, and even ask for cannon. 20,000 tomans paid to artillery. Orders sent to complete as soon as possible (? preparation)s of war. There is understanding between Russians and Persians, who are preparing an attack on Turkish frontier.

It appears that the negotiations hitherto pursued between the Russian Minister at Tehran and Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs have resulted in a project of common action thereupon between Persia and Russia against Turkey, and the conclusion of a Treaty to that effect.

No. 236.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 27, 6·50 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1877, 4 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" left Constantinople for the Danube the day before yesterday.

No. 237.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 27, 6·51 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1877, 5 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

AUSTRIAN Chargé d'Affaires has communicated (to?) Porte assurances conveyed to Count Andrassy by Prince Gortchakow that Russian troops will not enter Servia at all.

No. 238.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 27.)

Tehran, April 27, 1877, 5·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Minister here yesterday saw the Minister for Foreign Affairs. He formally announced the declaration of war, and called upon the Persian Government to state what attitude they meant to assume. In view of the policy of neutrality hitherto followed by Persia, he ended by making certain proposals, the nature of which I have not yet learnt, their object being to induce Persia to rise against Turkey.

These are at present under consideration, but no decision has yet been come to.

No. 239.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 27.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

MAIL routes to England *vid* Varna and Odessa closed. Only routes open, *vid* Marseilles, Wednesday, and Trieste, Monday.

No. 240.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, April 27, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

BRITISH steam-ship owners are inquiring what is the position of steamers now on passage to Galatz and Nicolaieff. In case of blockade, will such vessels be admitted and allowed to load?

No. 241.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 27, 7 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1877, 4·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE (been) informed by the Minister of Marine that the Black Sea ports will be declared blockaded.

About twenty ships, including iron (? clads), under the command of Achmet Pasha and Mustapha Pasha, have received orders to cruize on the Russian coast, and to bombard it if necessary. The maritime force will act conjointly in the direction of the Crimea.

Hobart Pasha is to command squadron in the Archipelago; he is now on the Danube with the Commander-in-chief of the land forces, and he will attempt to force his passage down stream,

and the Turkish squadron on the Danube would have been composed of more than twenty ships, including ironclads, under the command of Arif.

The Russian coast being defended by torpedoes, the Turkish squadron is furnis(ed) with an apparatus for taking them up. The Archipelago squadron at present commanded by Hussein Pasha will cruize between Crete and Greece to prevent conveyance of contraband of war to the insurgents, should Greece openly encourage revolutionary measures in Crete. The fleet will blockade ports.

I have been informed that orders have been issued to Military Commandant of Pera to punish with exemplary severity any act of insubordination committed by troops, who are forbidden to be out of barracks after nightfall, or unprovided with money.

No. 242.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Odessa, April 27, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

M. NELIDOFF having stated that, contrary to what has appeared in English press, when he left Constantinople your Lordship had made no representations as to bombardment of Odessa, British community request me to ask if I may contradict that statement.

No. 243.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Galatz, April 27, 1877, 4·50 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

NO shot fired here on either side. About 12,000 Russian troops passed. Three Turkish ironclads gone up. Telegraphic exchange with Constantinople interrupted. No gunboat here. I am informed that one will come when relieved at Constantinople.

No. 244.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Galatz, April 27, 1877, 5·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Commander-in-chief declares navigation of the Danube closed. Reasonable time given for ships now in river to clear out.

No. 245.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1877, 9 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING is from the Military Secretary at Roustchouk:—

"A gentleman arrived from Bucharest says Russian(s) have arrived at the first railway station (out) of Bucharest, and published proclamation that they will enter Bucharest, and are not to come to Giurgevo.

"The Turks have not crossed Danube here or, I hear, anywhere else."

No. 246.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Vienna, April 27, 1877, 10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Mr. Layard's telegram, communicated to me to-day, the Porte ought to know that the export of horses from Austria-Hungary was some time ago prohibited with a view to the possible requirements of the Government.

No foreign purchasers therefore attended the recent fairs. The Turkish Ambassador may, perhaps, be able to show that those referred to were purchased before the prohibition.

No. 247.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, April 27, 1877, 10·15 P.M.*

FROM Monson, dated to-day:—

"Prince Nicholas has received intelligence that the Turks yesterday killed and decapitated a Kutchi shepherd and carried his head to Podgoritza.

"His Highness telegraphs to Ali Saib Pasha that if such barbarities are repeated, he will hang every Turkish officer above the rank of Captain who falls into his hands."

No. 248.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 28, 11·40 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, April 28, 1877, 1·45 A.M.*

THE Mission Agent at Messed reports following:—

"I have learned from reliable authority that the Ruler of Afghan has dispatched a person named Attaula, son of Hujee Iskairula, on a mission to the Russians."

Communicated to India.

No. 249.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, April 28, 1877, 1 P.M.*

I SEE that a question is to be asked on Monday as to attitude of Egypt in the Eastern question.

My despatches may not arrive in time, and your Lordship will desire to know exactly how the case stands.

In obedience to the summons of the Porte, Egypt has promised to despatch all the assistance she properly can to Turkey, and the Viceroy will send his son, Prince Hassan, in command of Egyptian contingent.

But Egypt intends to respect and fulfil her financial engagements towards Europe. She will touch no moneys pledged to her creditors, and the measure of her assistance will depend upon the extraordinary resources she can raise in the shape of voluntary subscriptions or loans, which will be decided by the Chamber of Delegates.

I have carefully avoided offering any advice or opinion on the subject.

My French colleague has strongly protested against despatch of any assistance; but this has not influenced the decision of the Egyptian Government, which has been taken spontaneously.

No. 250.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 28, 1877, 1·15 P.M.*

TURKISH Ambassador has communicated telegram from Porte asking Her Majesty's Government to undertake protection of Turkish subjects in Russia.

I have consented, though I told Musurus Pasha that it might have been better, under the circumstances, to ask some other Government.

No. 251.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 28, 1877, 1·30 P.M.*

AT request of Turkish Government, Her Majesty's Government have undertaken the protection of Turkish subjects in Russia.

Inform Russian Government, and instruct Consuls to give their good offices accordingly, as occasion may require.

No. 252.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, April 28, 1877, 1·55 P.M.*

TELEGRAPH at once all regulations issued respecting blockade and closing ports. Very important that timely notice should be given to British shipping.

No. 253.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 28, 2·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 28, 1877, 12·15 P.M.*

THE Turkish Government having refused to allow Germany to accept protection of Russian subjects and interests, on ground that they cannot admit application of the Capitulations to them under the exceptional circumstances of the war, the German Government have, I have been informed, directed the German Chargé d'Affaires to protest against this decision, and if Porte refuses to give way, to refer to Berlin for further instructions. I have strongly advised Minister for Foreign Affairs not to insist upon this refusal, as I am assured that no danger or serious difficulties need be apprehended from giving way, and the Turkish Government can always reserve to themselves the right of dealing with subjects of the enemy found within their territories, in case of necessity.

No. 254.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 28, 3·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 28, 1877, 12·20 P.M.*

TURKISH Government are about to issue orders forbidding all ships passing through the Dardanelles and Bosphorus after dark.

The lights on Bosphorus will be extinguished except those as [at ?] the Black Sea entrance, which the Turkish Government will maintain as long as they can safely do so.

No. 255.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received April 28, 3·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 28, 1877, 1·30 P.M.*

I AM informed by person present at the Chamber when Government announced to them declaration of war, that the enthusiasm in favour of resisting the Russians to utmost was remarkable, and especially among Christian deputies for (their) patriotism. The son of Schamil, the celebrated (Circassian) Chief, has taken the command of the Circassians in Asia; the ( ) well-known Alder Khan Bey is to join a corps of Kurds; and it is stated that the Christians are to propose to the Porte to raise Christian regiments.

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* Identic telegram to Mr. Layard.

No. 256

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Constantinople, April 28, 1877, 2 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
AS Hobart Pasha is now absent, I have not been able to communicate to him the contents of your Lordship's telegram of the 25th instant, but I will do so immediately on his return to Constantinople.

No. 257.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sanderson.

Foreign Office, April 28, 1877, 4·55 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram of the 27th, telegraph regulations issued as to closing Danube. If you have not got them, state how long will be allowed for vessels to leave the river.

No. 258.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, April 28, 1877, 5·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
WITH reference to your telegram of this day, try and communicate with Hobart Pasha at once, as the statement respecting him has been already made in Parliament.

No. 259.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28, 5·30 P.M.)

Vienna, April 28, 1877, 3 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
SIMILAR information to that received by your Lordship from Mr. Vivian as to warning given to the Khedive against affording assistance to the Porte has been reported by the Austro-Hungarian Agent.

No. 260.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28, 6 P.M.)

Vienna, April 28, 1877, 3·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
INFORMATION from Constantinople has been received to-day at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, that as it appears that Russia does not propose to send forces into Servia, the Porte has no longer any reason for doing so.

The Austrian Government intimated, I understand, to both parties that they would have serious objections to war being brought so near their frontiers.

No. 261.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, April 28, 1877, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
YOUR telegrams of 25th referred to Law Officers.

Proposed regulations are within the rights of the Porte.

Suggest to Turkish Government that immediate and proper measures should be taken for the protection and safety of all neutral vessels navigating in waters, and entering or leaving ports and roadsteads where torpedoes have been laid; secondly, that due notice of blockades should be given, and a proper warning given to vessels on their way to blockaded ports, and due time allowed to vessels within and wishing to leave blockaded ports.

No. 262.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, April 28, 1877, 6·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
"ANTELOPE" leaves Malta to-day for Constantinople. "Helicon" will follow on 8th of May.

No. 263.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Tiflis, April 28, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)
AUTHORITIES refuse to forward my telegrams to Constantinople; telegrams 24th and 27th instant were sent to London. Please acknowledge receipt.

Four battalions of the 35th division arrived yesterday from Russia, two of which are gone to Akhalzyk; four more of the same division expected late Thursday. 500 Cossacks gone to Alexandropol to-day.

No. 264.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Galatz, April 28, 1877, 4·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
VERBAL notice received this morning that all vessels must leave by six this evening. Four small Russian ironclads came by rail yesterday. Two launched this morning.

No. 265.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Tiflis, April 28, 1877, 7·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
YESTERDAY Russians with one division attacked Turkish position near Ozurget, but gained no advantage. Russians had, it is said, between 200 and 300 wounded. Some troops arrived from Russia leave for Alexandropol.

No. 266.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Pera, April 28, 1877, 7 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
TURKISH Government propose to issue a declaration to the effect that the establishments of the Mixed Commission on the Danube shall be respected and protected, but that they cannot bind themselves as to the freedom of navigation of the river.

No. 267.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

St. Petersburgh, April 28, 1877, 9 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)
I AM informed that Prince Gortchakow has made a request through the French Ambassador here to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs not to answer his last Circular.

I have been informed that orders are given to have the seven ironclads at Cronstadt, mentioned in my despatch No. 202, ready for sea on the 17th of May. They are to be joined by the Russian squadron now in American waters, and will proceed to the Mediterranean under the command of the Grand Duke Constantine.

No. 268.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Pera, April 28, 1877, 10·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Austrian Chargé d'Affaires has informed Turkish Minister for Foreign Affaires that Russia will give assurances to Austria that she will not enter Servia if Turkey will do the same. Turkish Minister for Foreigd Affairs has proposed to Austrian Chargé d'Affaires to state this to him in a note to which he would reply, giving the assurances required. Turkish Government would have occupied Kladova only in order to prevent Russian troops crossing to Turno-Severin, and will not enter Servia except in case of a rising in that province.

No. 269.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Pera, April 28, 1877, 10·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 27th instant, Turkish Minister for Foreign Affaires informs me that a Declaration with reference to blockade of the Black Sea and rights of neutrals will be immediately published; and he strongly advises that vessels should not attempt to proceed to Galatz, which is now the seat of war, or to Nicholaieff, or other ports.

No. 270.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 28.)

Pera, April 28, 1877, 11 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE just received following notice from the Porte:—

First, the Dardanelles and Bosphorus are closed both for entrance and exit to all steamers and sailing ships without exception during the night, that is, from sunset to sunrise.

Secondly, the lighthouses in these straits (with the exception of the two great lighthouses at the entrance to the Bosphorus in the Black Sea and the two lighthouses of Sedal Bahr and Koln Kaleh on the Dardanelles) will be extinguished; the four above-mentioned lights may also be extinguished by the orders of the military commanders.

Thirdly, the firing of guns, cannon, in foggy weather, or an alarm signal, is absolutely forbidden.

No. 271.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 29.)

Cairo, April 29, 1877, 10 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

EGYPTIAN Government are most anxious to know the views of Her Majesty's Government as to allowing Russian men-of-war to pass through the Suez Canal.

Question will probably soon arise, and the Government seem to fear consequences of attempting to enforce the order that will probably come from the Porte to stop their passage.

No 272.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 29.)

Galatz, April 29, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

NO regulations issued. All ships to leave yesterday. Galatz clear.

No. 273.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 29.)

Bucharest, April 29, 1877, 2·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

GOVERNMENT of Roumania signed a Convention with Russia thirteen days ago. I send details of duplicity of Roumanian Government in my despatch.

No. 274.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 29.)

Rome, April 29, 1877, 3·18 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

OFFICIAL Gazette of last night proclaims neutrality of Italy in war between Russia and Turkey, and warns Italian citizens of penalties attaching to violation of same.

No. 275.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 29, *at night.*)

Pera, April 29, 1877, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Erzeroom:—

"Turks retiring from Beyazid to Delibaba. Much grain seized by Russians in Shoraghel (?). Russians entered Ardahan. Russian force large—reported to have 400 mortars and three very large Krupp siege guns." Dated yesterday.

No. 276.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 29, *at night.*)

Pera, April 29, 1877, 7 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING just received Consul Green:—

"News has just reached this that the Italian despatch-boat 'Aution' is at Durazzo.

"No other Italian men-of-war have visited this coast since September.

"Fourteen men of war are now collected at Taranto, and a corps of 30,000 men is also said to be in that vicinity; but the Italian Consul strenuously denies the public rumour here that the Italians intend to occupy this country."

No. 277.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 29, *at night.*)

Tiflis, April 29, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

CORRESPONDENT of Agency Havas named Nichola gone to Turkish head-quarters in Asia Minor. He is Russian spy. Please communicate to Constantinople. Grand Duke is at Tiflis awaiting I think reinforcements. Despatch No. 58 sent.

No. 278.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 29, *at night.*)

St. Petersburgh, April 29, 1877, 9·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

(Very Confidential.)

I AM informed by one of my colleagues that Prince Gortchakow, in talking lately of Persia, expressed no wish for Persian co-operation in the war, observing that Persian troops would be rather an embarrassment and an expense, than of any utility, and would probably bring the plague with them.

No. 279.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30.)

Constantinople, April 30, 1877, 8 A.M

(Telegraphic.)

THE following telegram has been received from Consul at Roustchouk :—

"Consul at Sulina telegraphs :—

"'Russians at Issaktcha, River Danube, have stopped all communications upwards wtihout given notice. They are laying torpedoes in river.'"

No. 280.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30.)

Constantinople, April 30, 1877, 9 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

CONSUL at Roustchouk informs me that nothing has been heard of Admiral Hobart since he steamed down the Danube on the morning of the 25th. Communication with him is (impossible), as he is probably enagaged in operations on the Lower Danube.

No. 281.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30.)

Constantinople, April 30, 1877, 10·30 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

COLONEL LENNOX suggests that he should be officially accredited by your Lordship to the Turkish army as Military Attaché now that war has begun. Will you instruct me upon the subject ?

No. 282.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30.)

Cairo, April 30, 1877, 10·45 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Agent here says that the Russian fleet from the Atlantic, Pacific and (Baltic ?), in all 27 ironclads, will shortly unite in the Mediterranean, and that there is an understanding between England and Russia as to the passage of the China fleet through Canal.

Red Sea ports are at the mercy of the Russians.

Russian Agent leaves at once.

Chamber of Delegates will decide to-day or to-morrow amount of assistance that Egypt can send Turkey.

No. 283.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30.)

Tehran, April 30, 1877, 11·10 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I LEARN from a good source that the Russian Minister expressed a strong desire on the part of his Government that Persia should side with Russia in the present war, but has not submitted definite proposals pending reply demanded as to attitude which Persia has decided upon pursuing.

I further learn that no reply has yet been given on the point unless by inference, the Russian Minister having asked Persia if she would sanction provisions being furnished to their troops near the frontier if needed, and having been informed that she would not agree to this unless made applicable to the belligerent Powers.

No. 284.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30, 3 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 30, 1877, 11·30 A.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Government have given notice to German Government that they (have ?) decided upon expelling all Russian subjects from Turkish Empire. They state that they would (with ?) much pleasure see Russian subjects and interests under German protection, but that in consequence of the privileges under the Capitulations being insisted on in their favour it is impossible for them to do so. (Orders have been given ?) to-day for all Russian subjects in Constantinople to leave Turkish territory within twelve days; those in the provinces within twenty-one. It is thought that German Government will be irritated by this decision, but the Porte pleads that (it ?) has the recognized international right to take this step, and that the pretension to secure the Russians the protection of the Capitulations render the order absolutely necessary.

No. 285.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30, 3·50 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 30, 1877, 12·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Government request me to inform your Lordship that as they have found themselves compelled to adopt measure[s for] sending out of the country all Russian subjects, they will not avail themselves of Her Majesty's Government's kind consent to take Turkish subjects and interests in Russia under their protection.

Musurus Pasha is instructed to make a communication in this sense to your Lordship, and at the same time to express to Her Majesty's Government the gratitude of that of the Sultan for their ready acquiescence in their request, which was made before war had been actually commenced by Russia.

No. 286.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30, 5 P.M.)

Constantinople, April 30, 1877, 2·40 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE the following on trustworthy authority :—

"A fleet of sixteen ships, large and small, including four ironclad broadside frigates, will be sent as soon as possible by the Turkish Government into the Mediterranean, as they apprehend that Russia will make at least a demonstration on that side, and perhaps endeavour to raise Crete.

"Seventeen large torpedoes, containing each 1,000 lbs. of powder, are now being laid down at the Black Sea entrance of the Bosphorus. They are not dangerous to shipping, unless fired by observation from the shore, as they have no (circuitous ?) closing apparatus. After these torpedoes are laid down, others will be placed in the Dardanelles at Smyrna and Salonica, and off Crete."

No. 287.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30, 5·2 P.M.)

Rome, April 30, 1877, 4·25 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

ON further reflexion Italian Government have decided not to answer Russian Circular of the 19th instant.

No. 288.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

Foreign Office, April 30, 1877, 5·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

A TELEGRAM has been received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reporting that he has been requested by the Turkish Government to state that, as they

have found themselves compelled to adopt measures for sending out of the country all Russian subjects, they will not avail themselves of Her Majesty's Government's kind consent to take Turkish subjects and interests in Russia under their protection. They, therefore, withdraw their request, which was made before war had been actually commenced by Russia.

Inform Consuls.

No. 289.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Vivian.

Foreign Office, April 30, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of 30th, I have come to no understanding with Russia respecting passage of China fleet through Canal, as stated by Russian Agent.

No. 290.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30.)

Bucharest, April 30, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs assures me solemnly that this Government has no intention to declare war against the Porte, suspend relations, or even refuse tribute. As soon as all fear of Turkish incursion is passed, all reserves will be sent home.

No. 291.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received April* 30.)

St. Petersburgh, April 30, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

IMPERIAL Government assent to Turkish subjects in Russia being placed under Protectorate of Great Britain during the war. I have accordingly addressed a Circular notification to Her Majesty's Consuls.

No. 292.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Representatives Abroad.

Foreign Office, April 30, 1877.

(Telegraphic)

THE Queen's Proclamation of Neutrality in the war between Russia and Turkey issued to-day.

It is similar to the Proclamation in regard to the Franco-German war, issued on the 9th of August, 1870.

Inform Consuls.